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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D.

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PREFACE.

The British Ornithologists' *Club* was founded in October, 1892, for the purpose of giving the Members of the British Ornithologists' *Union* an opportunity for meeting more frequently than the customary once a year. The popularity of the Club has been demonstrated by the fact that, during its first season, its ranks have been joined by 84 Members of the B. O. U.

No fewer than 92 communications have been made at the ten Meetings of the B. O. C. which have taken place up to the present time. Twenty-five new or amended names of genera have been proposed, and fifty-eight new species of birds have been described. The Club may therefore be congratulated on the work done under its auspices during its first session.

The Committee hope for the continued support of their brethren of the B. O. U., and will be glad to receive additional names for the B. O. Club. They invite further communications, and inasmuch as many of the Members are especially interested in Palæarctic Ornithology, exhibitions of rare European and Asiatic birds, with remarks on their distribution, will be always appreciated.

(Signed) R. BOWDLER SHARPE,
Editor.

July 31*st*, 1893.

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RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

I. That a Club be constituted, to consist of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union, and to be called the British Ornithologists' Club.

II. That any Member of the B. O. U. can become a Member of the Club by signifying his wish to do so to the Secretary, and paying a subscription of *Five Shillings* for the Session.

III. That the Club shall meet on the third Wednesday in every month, from October to June inclusive, at times and places to be arranged by the Committee.

IV. That at the Meeting papers upon Ornithological subjects be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

V. That an Abstract of the proceedings be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member. Copies of this monthly Abstract to be published and sold at a shilling each.

VI. That R. BOWDLER SHARPE be appointed Editor of the 'Bulletin,' and HOWARD SAUNDERS, Secretary and Treasurer to the Club.

VII. That the affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee of three Members (to be elected annually, and one of whom is to be changed every year*); together with the Editor of 'The Ibis,' the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' and the Secretary and Treasurer, *ex officio*.

---

* At the inaugural Meeting E. Bidwell, the Earl of Gainsborough, and H. Seebohm were the three Members elected.

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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. I.

THE Inaugural Meeting took place at the Mona Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on Wednesday, October 5th, 1892.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

The following Members of the British Ornithologists' Union were also present:—E. BIDWELL, W. T. BLANFORD, F.R.S., PHILIP CROWLEY, W. GRAHAM, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, T. J. MONK, F. PENROSE, Count T. SALVADORI, HOWARD SAUNDERS, W. L. SCLATER, HENRY SEEBOHM, R. BOWDLER SHARPE, H. T. WHARTON, and JOHN YOUNG.

Guests: Mr. E. DEGEN, Mr. W. P. PYCRAFT, Mr. OLDFIELD THOMAS, Mr. A. SMITH WOODWARD.

The Rules of the Club were proposed and adopted. A Committee was appointed, consisting of Mr. E. BIDWELL, the EARL OF GAINSBOROUGH, and Mr. H. SEEBOHM, with the Editor of 'The Ibis.' Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS was elected Secretary and Treasurer to the Club.

It was determined to hold a Meeting on the third Wednesday in every month from October to June inclusive. An abstract of the proceedings to be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, and distributed gratis to every

[*November* 1*st*, 1892.]

Member. Copies of this monthly 'Bulletin' will be published by *Mr. R. H. Porter,* 18 *Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.*

Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe was appointed Editor of the 'Bulletin.'

Mr. Edward Degen read a paper "On some of the main Features in the Evolution of the Bird's Wing," which was illustrated by diagrams and specimens. After having briefly summarized the pterylography of the wing, Mr. Degen invited attention to two small feathers in the carpal region, lying between the cubital and metacarpal remiges. These were considered by the late Mr. Wray to belong, the upper to the median, and the under to the major row of coverts. But Mr. Degen has come to the conclusion that the so-called major covert is really a degenerated remex, whilst the "median" tectrix is neither more nor less than its major covert. In short, Wray's "rudimentary" major covert belongs to the remiges, and his "median" to the tectrices majores. Mr. Degen proposed to call the covert the "carpal covert," and the underlying feather the "vestigial remex." He further pointed out that hitherto the major coverts had been held to lie proximally to their respective remiges, whilst in reality the reverse was the case.

Finally, and as the result of the foregoing deductions, Mr. Degen advanced a theory with regard to aquincubitalism and the probable derivation of the cubital remiges from the 3rd and 4th metacarpo-digitals.

A discussion followed, in which Messrs. P. L. Sclater, Henry Seebohm, and W. P. Pycraft took part.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. II.

The first regular meeting of the Club was held at the Mona Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on Wednesday, October 19th, 1892.

Chairman : P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present :—E. Bidwell, W. Eagle Clarke, Philip Crowley, W. Graham, A. P. Loyd, St. George Mivart, F.R.S., H. J. Pearson, Robert H. Read, Count T. Salvadori, Howard Saunders, Henry Seebohm, R. Bowdler Sharpe, Horace Terry, W. B. Tegetmeier, J. T. Tristram-Valentine, Charles A. Wright, John Young.

Mr. Howard Saunders informed the Meeting that the number of Members who had joined the Club up to the 19th of October was 60.

Mr. Sclater announced that he had received for the 'Ibis' an excellent Memoir on the birds of the vicinity of Aden, prepared by Lieut. Henry E. Barnes, M.B.O.U., and lately attached to the Commissariat Department at Aden. It contained an account of 126 species of birds collected or observed in the vicinity of Aden. Mr. Sclater exhibited some specimens sent home by Lieut. Barnes from Aden for examination. Amongst these were examples of *Falco barbarus, Halcyon semicæruleus,* and *Coturnix delegorguei,* which was stated to be equally abundant near Aden with *C. communis.*

[*November* 1*st*, 1892.]

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM exhibited some interesting species of birds procured by Mr. Holst in the 'Loo Choo' or 'Liu Kiu' Islands. The collection will be fully described in the January number of the 'Ibis.'

Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE called attention to a collection of birds recently received by the Natural History Museum from Mr. A. H. Everett, the well-known Bornean traveller. Among other interesting birds Mr. Everett sent skins of *Motacilla melanope* from the Baram River, and an adult of the true Peregrine Falcon (*Falco communis*), not the dark Sunda race, from Pappan Island, Labuan, where it was procured in February 1892. Among the migratory species, however, sent by Mr. Everett was a specimen of *Emberiza pusilla*, new to the avifauna of Borneo. His brother, Mr. H. H. Everett, procured the individual in question at Tagora, in Sarawak, during the North-east Monsoon.

From the island of Mantanani, Mr. Everett also forwarded examples of both phases of a new Owl, which Dr. Bowdler Sharpe proposed to call

SCOPS MANTANANENSIS, sp. n.

S. similis *S. eleganti*, Cass., sed subtùs latiùs striatus, et tectricibus alarum conspicuè albo notatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·5, culm. 0·8, alæ 6·2, caudæ 3·0, tarsi 1·25.

Hab. in insulâ Borneensi "Mantanani" dicta. Typus in Mus. Brit.

Dr. SHARPE also proposed the following diagnostic characters for some new species recently discovered by Mr. Charles Hose on Mount Dulit, in Sarawak, Borneo:—

SCOPS BROOKII, sp. n.

S. similis *S. bourouensi*, sed fasciâ albâ latâ cervicali distinguendus. Long. tot. 9·5, alæ 6·65.

Hab. in monte Dulitensi insulæ Borneensis.

ORIOLUS HOSII, sp. n.

O. niger, subcaudalibus castaneis. ♂ rostro nigro; ♀ rostro rubro. Long. tot. 8, alæ 4·9.

BATRACHOSTOMUS MIXTUS, sp. n.

♂ *ptil. rufâ*. Similis *B. stellato* et tectricibus alarum eodem

modo albo maculatis, sed subtùs rufus, pectore et abdomine minimè albicantibus et maculis pectoralibus magnis ovatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·0, alæ 4·8.

♀ *ptil. brunneâ.* Similis *B. stellato,* sed subtùs vermiculata et maculis magnis albis ovatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 8·0, alæ 5·1.

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant described two new species of *Caloperdix.*

Caloperdix borneensis, sp. n.

Similis *C. oculeæ,* sed pileo gulâque saturatioribus et magis ferrugineis, interscapulio nigerrimo, plumis lineis albis angustioribus et crebrioribus ornatis, et pileo rufo valdè definito distinguenda.

Hab. in monte Dulitensi provinciæ Borneensis "Sarawak" dictæ.

Mr. Grant likewise pointed out that the *Caloperdix* of Sumatra and Java differed from the typical Malayan form, and proposed to diagnose it as follows :—

Caloperdix sumatrana, sp. n.

Similis *C. oculeæ,* sed fasciis interscapulii dorsique pallidè flavis et ferè undique transversim irregulariter dispositis.

Hab. in Sumatrâ et Javâ.

Captain G. E. Shelley described some new species of African Birds as follows :—

Cinnyris nesophilus, sp. n.

Similis *C. notato,* sed major ; rostro valdè longiore, et gutture purpurascenti-violaceo distinguendus. Long. tot. 6, alæ 2·9.

Hab. in insulâ "Angasija" vel "Great Comoro" dictâ. Typus in Mus. G. E. S.

Zosterops anderssoni, sp. n.

Similis *Z. senegalensi,* sed valde major et pallidior. Long. tot. 4·3, alæ 2·35.

Hab. in terrâ Damarensi Africæ meridionalis. Typus in Mus. Brit.

Parus xanthostomus, sp. n.

Similis *P. nigro,* sed remigibus flavo marginatis, et ore intùs flavo distinguendus. Long. tot. 6, alæ 3·15.

Hab. in terrâ Zambesianâ. Typus in Mus. G. E. S.

Parus rovumæ, sp. n.

Similis *P. albiventri,* sed notæo, tectricibus alarum minoribus et præpectore cinereis minimè nigris distinguendus. Long. tot. 6, alæ 3·15.

Hab. prope flumen "Rovuma" dictum in Africâ orientali. Typus in Mus. G. E. S.

Mr. F. W. Styan announced that in a collection of birds made by Mr. B. Schmacker, of Shanghai, in the island of Hainan, he had discovered five apparently new species, which he diagnosed as follows:—

Graminicola striata, sp. n.

Similis *G. bengalensi,* sed loris et superciliis fulvescentibus et uropygii plumis angustè nigro striatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·5, alæ 2·25.

Pinarocichla schmackeri, sp. n.

Similis *P. euptilosæ,* sed rectricibus minimè albo terminatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 8·9, alæ 4·2.

Crypsirhina nigra, sp. n.

Fuliginoso-nigra; pileo, alis caudâque chalybeis. Long. tot. 12·25, alæ 4·7.

Mr. Styan described the tail as "spatulate and deeply notched at the tip," and he believes that the bird will be found to be generically distinct from *Crypsirhina.*

Cryptolopha bicolor, sp. n.

Similis *C. cantatrici,* sed loris et facie laterali albidis distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·35, alæ 2·45.

Arboricola ardens, sp. n.

Similis *A. intermediæ,* sed fronte superciliisque nigris et plagâ præpectorali rubrâ, et dorso nigro fasciato, ut in *A. torqueola,* distinguenda. Long. tot. circa 9·0, alæ 4·8.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe exhibited the types of some of the new species of birds described by Mr. W. R. Davison in the

'Ibis' for this year (1892, pp. 99–103), from the Pahang country in the Malayan Peninsula. Mr. Davison had very kindly submitted these specimens to Dr. Sharpe, who reported as follows :—

"*Campophaga minor,* Davison, t. c. p. 99 = *Lalage culminata* of my 'Catalogue of Birds in Brit. Mus.' (iv. p. 104). Mr. Oates considers that *C. culminata* should be placed in the genus *Campophaga* (*cf.* Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, i. p. 493).

"*Gerygone pectoralis,* Davison, t. c. p. 99 = *G. modiglianii,* Salvad. Ann. Mus. Gen. (2) xii. p. 71 (1891, Sumatra).

"This is a perfectly good species, and Mr. Davison recognized its peculiar character, viz. the dusky horseshoe on the sides of the fore neck—a point equally insisted on by Count Salvadori. The name given by the latter gentleman has a slight priority, for it bears the date of the 23rd of December, 1891, while Mr. Davison's name appeared on the 1st of January, 1892.

"*Ptilocichla leucogastra,* Davison, t. c. p. 100 = *Trichostoma rostratum,* Blyth (*cf.* Sharpe, Cat. B. vii. p. 562).

"I have compared Mr. Davison's type with our series in the British Museum, and there is no question as to its being identical with the above-named species.

"The type of his *Malacopterum melanocephalum* was not sent by Mr. Davison, but the type of *Acridotheres torquatus* (*t. c.* p. 102), which I exhibit, shows that the species is a very distinct one, characterized at once by the broad grey band on the fore neck, separating the pinkish isabelline of the throat from the isabelline of the chest and underparts. It belongs to my subgenus *Æthiopsar,* and must be called *Æthiopsar torquatus.*"

Mr. Davison had also sent a *Stachyris* from Pahang, which was apparently new to science. Dr. Sharpe proposed to call it

STACHYRIS DAVISONI, sp. n.

Similis *S. borneensi,* rostro nigro, facie laterali et regione paroticâ pallide ochrascentibus, pectori concoloribus distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·5, alæ 2·25.

Captain G. E. Shelley exhibited a series of birds from the collections recently made by Mr. Alexander Whyte, for Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., H.B.M. Commissioner for Nyassa Land. These collections were made on the Nyassa Highlands at Zomba and on the Milanji Plateau, and were of great interest, as showing the extension of the range of the South-African Fauna across the watershed of the Zambesi. Twelve species were new to science, and these will be fully described in the January number of the 'Ibis.'

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. III.

The second regular meeting of the Club was held at the Mona Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on Wednesday, November 16th, 1892.

Chairman : Howard Saunders.

Members present :—F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., E. Bidwell, H. E. Dresser, A. P. Loyd, E. Neale, Robert H. Read, Capt. Savile Reid, Count T. Salvadori, Henry Seebohm, Capt. Horace Terry, E. Cavendish Taylor, H. T. Wharton, John Young.

Guest : Ernst Hartert.

The Chairman announced that the number of Members who had joined the Club up to the 16th of November was 72.

Mr. Henry Seebohm exhibited two examples of the Siberian Pectoral Sandpiper (*Tringa acuminata*) which had been obtained on the Norfolk coast. These are the only authentic instances of the occurrence of the species in Great Britain. A series of specimens of *T. acuminata* and its American ally, *T. maculata*, were placed on the table, and the differences between the two species and their geographical distribution were pointed out.

Count Salvadori gave diagnostic characters for two new species of Pigeons of the genus *Phlogœnas*, as follows :—

[*December 1st*, 1892.]

PHLOGŒNAS BIMACULATA, sp. n.

Phlogœnas tristigmata, Gould (nec Temm.), B. Asia, vi. pl. 59 (1873).

Ph. Ph. tristigmatæ simillima, sed cervice in medio omninò æneâ, parte superiori maculis duabus lateralibus purpureis ornatâ; rectricibus quatuor mediis brunneis, 5^a utrinque griseâ, fasciâ subapicali brunneâ notatâ, quatuor extimis griseis, fasciâ subapicali nigrâ ornatis.

Hab. Makassar, S. Celebes.

PHLOGŒNAS ALBICOLLIS, sp. n.

Phlogœnas sp., Wigglesw. Aves Polyn. p. 55, no. 286 (1891).

Ph. Ph. erythropteræ simillima, sed capite, collo cum pectore albis, distinguenda.

Hab. Bow Island, Pacific Ocean (*Belcher*).

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD communicated the description of a new species of Pigeon of the genus *Ptilopus,* which he proposed to call—

PTILOPUS SALVADORII, sp. n.

P. P. pectorali affinis, sed rostro longiore, colore lætiore, tectricibus alarum minoribus albo-cinerascente pustulatis, et gulâ inferiore luteo tinctâ haud difficile distinguendus. Long. tot. 8, alæ 4·4, caudæ 2·5.

Hab. Island of Jobi, in the Bay of Geelvink.

Mr. Rothschild pointed out that this new species was intermediate to a great extent between *P. pectoralis* and *P. musschenbroeki.* It is, however, most closely allied to *P. pectoralis,* from which species it is distinguished by the generally lighter shade of the ground-colour and by the characters given above in the diagnosis. The purple pectoral patch, which is somewhat irregular in shape in *P. pectoralis,* is slightly larger in *P. salvadorii.* It is much smaller than in *P. musschenbroeki,* and its inferior margin forms a straight line. In *P. pectoralis* the lesser wing-coverts are entirely unspotted, in *P. musschenbroeki* they have a large cinereous patch, while in *P. salvadorii* they have several distinct and separate spots of grey.

The types were forwarded to Mr. Rothschild from Souroui, in the island of Jobi, by the late Mr. A. Bruijn, and were procured in January. Mr. Rothschild named the species in honour of Count Tommaso Salvadori, whose knowledge of the family of Pigeons is unrivalled, and only equalled by his splendid work on the Birds of New Guinea.

Mr. Henry Seebohm exhibited a specimen of the new Ground-Thrush, *Oreocincla cuneata*, De Vis, which had been lent to him by Mr. De Vis for illustration in his forthcoming 'Monograph' of the group. This species is a very interesting one, and specimens of the allied forms were laid upon the table for comparison.

Mr. Seebohm likewise made some remarks on the occurrences of the Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) in the British Islands, an example of the species having been obtained in Yorkshire about a fortnight ago. He gave details of all the authentic British captures of this Warbler, the chief interest being in the fact that four specimens had been captured in Great Britain within a few weeks of each other—one being taken in Ireland, one in Scotland, and two in England, only one previous occurrence in this country having been known.

Count Salvadori read some notes on a rare Parrot, *Conurus rubritorques* of Sclater. The species was described by Dr. Sclater from a specimen which lived in the Zoological Gardens, and the typical skin, in not very perfect condition, passed into the collection of the British Museum. When writing the volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds' which dealt with the species, Count Salvadori thought that the red feathers on the throat and neck were due to a *lusus naturæ*; and this conclusion was enhanced by the fact that in allied species, especially in *C. wagleri*, red feathers were occasionally found on the throat, sometimes forming a red collar. Thus the Count concluded that *C. rubritorques* was an accidental variety of *C. holochlorus*. Recently, however, Messrs. Salvin and

Godman have received from Nicaragua a series of ten specimens collected by Mr. W. B. Richardson, and all of them have the red throat, and most of them show some red feathers on the side of the neck, forming an incipient collar. Mr. Salvin has already referred these specimens to *C. rubritorques* ('Ibis,' 1892, p. 328), and has suggested that the conclusions of the 'Catalogue' required reconsideration. Having examined the series in the Salvin-Godman collection, Count Salvadori agreed that *C. rubritorques* must be recognized as a species, though the name is not very happily chosen, as there is no red collar round the neck, but only a few red feathers on the side of the neck joining the red throat, and these feathers are not present in every individual. The bird was rather red-*throated* than red-*collared.*

Mr. Ernst Hartert made remarks on some new and interesting species from the islands of the Dutch West Indies, near to the Venezuelan coast. Among other important facts established by Mr. Hartert during his recent explorations of these islands was the discovery of the true habitat of *Columba gymnophthalmus,* which turns out to be the islands of Curaçao, Aruba, and Bonaire. On Bonaire Mr. Hartert met with *Columba corensis, Margarops fuscatus,* and *Ammodromus savannarum.* The latter species was also found on Curaçao, where also *Crotophaga sulcirostris* was procured. *Icterus vulgaris* was common to Curaçao and Aruba; but a very curious fact was the distribution of the three species of *Conurus,* each island having its own peculiar form—*C. pertinax* in Curaçao, *C. æruginosus* in Aruba, and *C. xanthogenius* (apparently a race of *C. pertinax*) in Bonaire.

Mr. Hartert described the following species as new to science:—

Myiarchus brevipennis, sp. n.

M. similis *M. tyrannulo,* sed tarso longiore, alis caudâque brevioribus, rostro nigro et notæi colore pallidiore distinguendus. Long. tot. 7·3, alæ 3·4–3·5, caudæ 3·5, culm. 0·7–0·8, tarsi 0·75–0·85.

Hab. Islands of Aruba, Curaçao, and Bonaire.

It is remarkable that this bird should be closely allied to the continental *M. tyrannulus* rather than to *M. oberi* of the Windward Islands, which is quite a distinct species. It may, perhaps, be considered a subspecific form of *M. tyrannulus*.

CHRYSOTIS ROTHSCHILDI, sp. n.

C. similis *C. ochropteræ*, sed rostro minore, marginis cubitalis colore rubro magis extenso, et colore flavo capitis, menti et alarum tectricum minorum minùs extenso distinguendus.

Hab. Island of Bonaire.

No species of *Chrysotis* is found on Curaçao, but Bonaire and Aruba each possess a species, the latter island having *C. ochroptera* of Venezuela. The new species is named after the Hon. Walter Rothschild, who took the greatest interest in the author's expedition to Venezuela and the West Indian Islands.

STRIX FLAMMEA BARGEI, subsp. n.

S. minima: similis *S. flammeæ* veræ, sed multò minor et alis valdè brevioribus distinguenda. Long. tot. 12, alæ 9·7, caudæ 4·3, tarsi 2·2.

Hab. Island of Curaçao.

This is a very small insular form, totally unlike the ordinary Barn-Owl of the West Indies. It is more like typical *S. flammea*, but is very much smaller and has such short wings that it is impossible to unite it to that species. It is named after Mr. Harry Barge, Governor of the Dutch West India Islands.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on the 21st of December.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. IV.

THE third meeting of the Club was held at the Mona Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on Wednesday, December 21st, 1892.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. BIDWELL, R. STEPHENSON CLARKE, PHILIP CROWLEY, H. E. DRESSER, H. O. FORBES, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, Lt.-Col. H. L. IRBY, ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S., H. J. PEARSON, F. PENROSE, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treas.*), W. L. SCLATER, HENRY SEEBOHM, R. BOWDLER SHARPE, Rev. H. H. SLATER, Capt. HORACE TERRY, J. F. TRISTRAM-VALENTINE.

Guests: A. TREVOR-BATTYE, E. HARTERT, E. J. HART.

The TREASURER announced that the number of Members amounted to 78.

Mr. H. E. DRESSER exhibited a specimen of a new species of *Acredula* from Macedonia, which he had received from Dr. Krüper. He proposed to call it

ACREDULA MACEDONICA, sp. n.

A. similis *A. roseæ,* sed nigredine pilei lateralis latiore et usque ad nares productâ, itaque loris nigris et plagâ gutturali sic ut in *A. tephronota,* distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culmen 0·3, alæ 2·4, caudæ 3·5, tarsi 0·6.

Hab. In monte Olympo.

[*December* 31*st*, 1892.]

Mr. **Philip Crowley** exhibited a nest and egg of *Paradisea raggiana* and the egg of *Chlamydodera cerviniventris* from South-eastern New Guinea; also an egg of *Chlamydodera maculata* from Clarence River, N. S. Wales. That of *C. cerviniventris* had been procured by Mr. Goldie at Milne Bay, S.E. New Guinea. The *Paradisea* was stated to build in shrubs from about 15 to 20 feet in height, and the egg resembled that of *Paradisea apoda* figured by Dr. Meyer from the Aru Islands (Zeitschr. ges. Orn. i. Taf. xvii. fig. 2).

Mr. **A. Trevor-Battye** exhibited some skins of *Parus borealis* and *P. palustris* from Sweden, and made some remarks on the different habits and notes of the two species as observed by him in that country. Remarks on this subject were made by Mr. **Howard Saunders**, Rev. **H. H. Slater**, Mr. **Ernst Hartert**, and Mr. **H. J. Pearson**.

The Hon. **Walter Rothschild** sent for exhibition the type of the remarkable new genus *Palmeria mirabilis* from Mauai, Sandwich Islands, as well as types of *Loxops ochracea* and *Hemignathus affinis*, the descriptions of which will appear in 'The Ibis' for January 1893.

Mr. **Ernst Hartert** exhibited an example of a new *Conurus* obtained by him on the island of Aruba, which he proposed to call

Conurus arubensis, sp. n.

Conurus C. æruginoso simillimus, sed fronte pallidiore, loris, capitis lateribus et gula lætioribus et conspicue luteo vel aureo tinctis distinguendus. Al. 5·4 poll., caud. 5.

This new form might be called intermediate between *C. pertinax* and *C. æruginosus*. Mr. Hartert had obtained four skins, which he had compared with a good many skins of both *C. æruginosus* and *C. pertinax* in Mus. H. v. Berlepsch, the British Museum, and the Rothschild Museum.

Hab. Aruba, West Indies.

Dr. **P. L. Sclater** exhibited a specimen of an extraordinary bird from South-eastern New Guinea, *Paramythia* *montium*, De Vis (Ann. Queensl. Mus. No. 2, p. 6). This species had been discovered by Sir William McGregor on Mount Suckling, and placed by Mr. De Vis in the family *Sturnidæ*; but it was doubtful whether its affinities lay with the Starlings. The bird will be figured in 'The Ibis' for April 1893.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition a typical specimen of a new Duck, which he proposed to call

ANAS LAYSANENSIS, sp. n.

Bill blackish; top of the head and hind neck deep blackish brown; sides of the head more mottled with brown; round the eye a white ring; interscapular region, scapulars, and wing-coverts light rusty brown, boldly variegated with blackish; feathers of the back and rump blackish, edged with rufous brown and with more or less conspicuous pale shaft-lines; upper tail-coverts and rectrices light brown, barred with blackish; primaries pale brown, with very light edges; chin whitish; feathers of the rest of the lower parts light rusty brown, irregularly barred and spotted with darker brown; feet yellow. In the male there is a conspicuous deep green and black speculum, bordered with white below; in the female the speculum is only indicated, the primary-coverts being edged with white. Total length 15 to 17 inches, wing 7·5 to 7·7, tail 3·5, culmen 1·6, tarsus 1·9.

Hab. Island of Laysan.

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM exhibited two examples (♂ and ♀) of a species of *Crossoptilon* which he regarded as representing an undescribed species. He proposed to call it

CROSSOPTILON LEUCURUM.

C. similis *C. tibetano*, sed rectricibus albis nigro terminatis (♂) aut marginatis (♀) distinguendum.

These examples had been obtained by Captain Bower and Dr. Thorold in Eastern Tibet between the Sok Pass and Chiamdo. Similar examples had been obtained by Prince Henry of Orleans and Monsieur Bonvalot on the plateau between the Sok Pass and Lhassa. Still further to the south, 150 miles east of Lhassa, was found *C. harmani*, of which a drawing was exhibited. East of Chiamdo and Batang, examples of *C. tibetanum* had been found by the Abbé David at Moupin, and by Mr. Pratt at Ta-chien-loo, and examples from both localities were exhibited. The range of this species seemed to overlap that of *C. leucurum* in East Tibet, but the latter was not known to extend into Western China. Examples of *C. auritum* collected by General Prjevalski on the plateau east of Koko-Nor, and the type of *C. manchuricum* obtained by the Abbé David on the plateau west of Pekin, were laid on the table for comparison.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe exhibited a specimen of an apparently new species of *Rhipidura* from the island of Dammar, in the Banda Sea, where it had been procured by Dr. Bassett Smith during the recent voyage of H.M.S. 'Penguin':—

Rhipidura buttikoferi, sp. n.

R. similis *R. setosæ*, sed ubique saturatior, nigricanti-brunnea, nec grisea, et rectricibus duabus exterioribus longiùs albo terminatis. Long. tot. 6·8 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·4, caudæ 3·4, tarsi 0·65.

According to the describer's arrangement in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' the species would fall in the "Key" to the species of *Rhipidura* (vol. iv. pp. 303–308) close to *R. setosa* (*t. c.* p. 329); but it differed from the latter in being blackish brown instead of ashy grey, and the white on the tail was much more extended. Under Count Salvadori's arrangement (Orn. Papuasia, ii. p. 53) of the genus *Rhipidura*, the Dammar species would also be closely allied to *R. setosa*. According, however, to the most recent disposition of the genus by Mr. Büttikofer (Notes Leyden Mus. xv. pp. 65–98), the new species would come into a different section from *R. setosa*, because the upper surface could never be considered to be "pure ashy grey;" on the contrary, the colour of the upper parts was dark chocolate-brown, almost blackish. Thus, to follow Mr. Büttikofer, the species would come next to *R. isura*; but here again, as in the case of *R. setosa*, the dark brown colour—instead of grey—would at once separate it. Dr. Sharpe added that Count Salvadori agreed with him that the species was new to science, and wished to apologize to Mr. Büttikofer for not having shown him the specimen during his recent visit to London, as, though it had been specially put aside for his examination, it had got mislaid.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe also exhibited the types of the species of Hainan birds described by Mr. Styan at the first Meeting of the Club on October 19th, 1892, which had been forwarded by him for examination. Mr. Styan had already discovered that his *Cryptolopha bicolor* was not a *Cryptolopha,* but was *Herpornis tyrannulus* of Swinhoe. Of the other species Dr. Sharpe found that *Pinarocichla schmackeri,* Styan, was *Criniger pallidus* of Swinhoe ('Ibis,' 1870, p. 252; *cf.* Sharpe, Cat. B. vi. p. 81). The *Crypsirhina nigra* was a *Temnurus,* a form which had remained unique in the Paris Museum since 1825. The original species, *Temnurus truncatus,* was said to have come from Cochin China, but had never been met with since. It was, however, extremely probable that the genus *Temnurus* would be found both in Cochin China and Hainan, for Mr. Schmacker's collection conclusively proved (if, indeed, any further proof were necessary after Swinhoe's researches) that Hainan formed an integral part of the Indo-Chinese Region; such species as *Harpactes erythrocephalus, Ianthœnas puniceus,* and *Siphia pallidipes,* which were true Himalayan forms, proclaiming Hainan to be connected with the Himalayan subregion. Whether *Temnurus niger* would prove to be conspecific with *Temnurus truncatus* could only be determined by a comparison of it with the types in Paris.

Dr. Sharpe next made some remarks on a remarkable paper recently published by Dr. Hartlaub, entitled "Vier seltene Rallen" (Abhandl. nat. Ver. Bremen, xii. Heft 3, pp. 389–402). In this paper Dr. Hartlaub had discussed *Rallus monasa* of Kittlitz from Kuschai, and proposed the generic name of *Kittlitzia* for the bird. Dr. Sharpe pointed out that this generic name had already been employed by Mr. Hartert for the Starling of Kuschai, which Kittlitz called *Calornis corvina* (*cf.* Hartert, 'Kat. Vogelsamml. Senckenb. Mus.' p. 75). He proposed, therefore, to change the name of *Kittlitzia*, Hartlaub (*nec* Hartert), to *Aphanolimnas*, the characters being the same as those so fully set forth by Dr. Hartlaub in his paper.

Of the second species mentioned by Dr. Hartlaub, *Pennula ecaudata* (King), a specimen was placed upon the table from the collection of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, who had kindly lent it for the occasion. In his paper Dr. Hartlaub had mentioned that there were five specimens extant of this rare and probably extinct species, four of which were in Honolulu, and one in the Cambridge Museum. Mr. Rothschild had stated, in a memorandum, that, so far as he was aware, only one specimen remained in Honolulu, and that of the other four, one was in Cambridge, one in Mexico, and the remaining two in his own Museum at Tring. Dr. Sharpe suggested that Dr. Hartlaub's third species of Rail, *Rallus sandwichensis*, Gm.,—which was evidently a *Pennula*, and should be called *Pennula sandwichensis* (Gm.)—was really the same as *Pennula ecaudata* (King). The fourth species—which Dr. Hartlaub had also included in the genus *Pennula*—was the *Porzanula palmeri* of Frohawk, a specimen of which was also placed on the table by Mr. Rothschild. Dr. Sharpe differed from Dr. Hartlaub as to the location of this species in the genus *Pennula*, and contended that it must be retained in the genus *Porzanula*, as it was much nearer to true *Porzana* than to any of the other Ralline genera, but possessed characters of sufficient generic value to warrant its separation.

Mr. H. O. Forbes stated that he had recently received from his correspondent Mr. Hawkins a specimen of *Cabalus modestus* of Hutton, from the island of Mangare in the Chatham group. The specimen was evidently that of a young bird, and Mr. Forbes had no doubt that *Cabalus modestus* was only the young of *Cabalus dieffenbachii*.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe announced that he had intended to speak about the classification and distribution of the Rails, but, owing to the lateness of the hour, this communication was postponed till the meeting in January.

Mr. H. O. Forbes exhibited the osteological remains of several of the species of birds he had discovered in the Chatham Islands, lying 500 miles to the east of Banks Peninsula, New Zealand. He pointed out that the species he had (' Nature,' xlvi. p. 252) assigned to the genus *Aphanapteryx*, and named *A. hawkinsi* (after his correspondent who had brought him the first fragments of its cranium), he was now inclined to place in a new genus, which he proposed (at the suggestion of Prof. A. Newton, F.R.S.) to call *Diaphorapteryx* (διάφορος=different). *Diaphorapteryx hawkinsi* belonged to the Ocydromine group of the Rallidæ, and was nearly related not only to *Ocydromus* itself, but even more closely to *Aphanapteryx* of Mauritius. It appeared, indeed, to be nearer to *Aphanapteryx* than the latter genus was to *Erythromachus* of Rodriguez.

Erythromachus differed from *Diaphorapteryx* and *Aphanapteryx* in the greater length of its nasal aperture, which was less than one third of the length of the beak in *Diaphorapteryx*. The latter also differed from both these genera and from *Ocydromus* in the large protuberances on the basi-temporal region of the skull; and from *Ocydromus* in its widely separated palatine bones, which, as they did not meet posteriorly in the middle line, disclosed the whole of the post-vomerine parasphenoidal rostrum as seen from the palatal surface. It had a strong, thick, short tarso-metatarsus, shorter than the metatarsus as figured by M. Milne-Edwards in his ' Oiseaux Fossiles de France.' The beak was highly arched—as in *Aphanapteryx* and *Erythromachus*, and was longer than the tarso-metatarsus.

Palæocorax moriorum.—This species of the Corvidæ, established on the wing- and limb-bones, had been originally placed in the genus *Corvus* (*cf.* ' Nature,' xlvi. p. 252), as these bones presented no characters distinguishing them from those of the most typical Crow. The cranium, however, differed from that of every known species of that genus, so that Mr. Forbes had found it necessary to establish a new genus, *Palæocorax*, for its reception.

There were present minute rudiments of the basipterygoid processes on the parasphenoid. The vomer was broad, flat, three-pointed in front. The maxillaries were anchylosed to the premaxillaries; the latter were anchylosed to the expanded ossified base of the nasal septum. The ossified mesethmoid stretched backward and was lodged in the concavity of the upper surface of the vomer, so that it presented a form intermediate between the complete ægithognathous Coracomorphæ, such as *Corvus*, and the compound ægithognathous forms, such as *Gymnorhina*, in which desmognathism was superadded by "ankylosis of the inner edge of the maxillaries with a highly ossified alinasal wall and nasal septum" (*Parker*).

The next Meeting will take place on January 18th, 1893, at the Restaurant Frascati (Krasnopolsky), 32 Oxford Street, W.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*	R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*	Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. V.

The fourth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of January, 1893.

Chairman : P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present :—E. Bidwell, R. Stephenson Clarke, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, Col. L. Howard Irby, H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, Evelyn Rawson, W. L. Sclater, Howard Saunders (*Treas.*), R. Bowdler Sharpe, H. Seebohm, J. Young.

Guest : C. E. Baker.

The Treasurer reported that the number of Members amounted to 79.

A letter was read from Count Salvadori commenting on some of the communications made to the last meeting of the Club, and expressing an opinion that *Cabalus modestus* of Hutton would be found to be distinct from *C. dieffenbachi.*

The Editor expressed his regret that, by an oversight, the name of Count Salvadori was not attached to the description of *Acredula macedonica* in the last number of the 'Bulletin.' He accepted the responsibility and apologized for this omission, which was due to a misunderstanding on his part, and stated that the species should be called *Acredula macedonica* of Salvadori and Dresser.

[*January 26th*, 1893.]

Mr. Howard Saunders exhibited a mature male Scoter (*Œdemia nigra*), shot by Mr. Chas. Fowler, of Chichester, in August 1891. Mr. Fowler stated that he had seen the two old birds, off and on, all the summer, without thinking of the probability of their breeding; but that early in August he had come upon them with a brood of seven nestlings just able to fly a short distance, and had shot the drake (see Zool. 1892, pp. 151, 228). On making inquiries he was told that the Scoter nested in Earnsley Marshes every year.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a prepared wing and tail of the Martineta Tinamou (*Calodromas elegans*), and pointed out that this form of the Tinamidæ had 12 rectrices, although these feathers could not be discriminated from the adjacent coverts without careful examination.

There were 10 metacarpo-digitals and 15 cubitals in the wing. The fifth cubital remex was present and well developed, as in all the Tinami (see 'Ibis,' 1890, p. 82). There were 3 feathers on the pollex (*alula spuria*).

Mr. Sclater read an extract from a letter addressed to him by Dr. G. Hartlaub, in which Dr. Hartlaub pointed out that Dr. Bowdler Sharpe was in error in suggesting (Bull. B. O. C. iv. p. xx) that *Pennula ecaudata* (King) and *P. sandwichensis* (Gm.) were identical. Dr. Hartlaub had compared the Cambridge specimen of the former with the Leyden specimen of the latter, and had found them distinct. The notæum of *P. sandwichensis* was marked by great blackish spots, whereas in *P. ecaudata* the upper parts were of a uniform brown. It was possible that Latham's "Dusky Rail" might belong to *P. sandwichensis* and not to *P. ecaudata*.

A communication was read from the Hon. Walter Rothschild containing the description of a new species of *Hemignathus* from the island of Lanai in the Sandwich group. He proposed for it the name of

Hemignathus lanaiensis, sp. n.

H. similis *H. obscuro*, sed rostro valdè longiore et crassiore, pileo cinerascente, notæo sordidiore olivascenti-viridi, pectore sordidè flavo, hypochondriis sordidè olivascentibus, et subcaudalibus albicantibus, distinguendus. Ala 3·1–3·3 poll., culm. 2·9–3·1.

Hab. in insulâ Sandwichensi 'Lanai' dictâ.

Mr. Rothschild's communication contained the following remarks on this new bird:—

"This species belongs to the typical section of *Hemignathus,* which, in my opinion, includes two different species from the island of Kauai, one from Hawai, and one from Oahu, in addition to the new species. They all have the upper and lower mandible of about the same length, while the aberrant *Heterorhynchus*-section, which now contains four species, has the upper mandible nearly twice the length of the lower.

"The *male* differs from the same sex of *H. obscurus* (its nearest ally) from Hawai in its much longer and very stout bill, ashy-greyish tint of the crown, and much duller olivaceous green of the back, neck, and rump. Breast dirty yellow, gradually passing into dull olive on the flanks, instead of bright yellowish olive as in *H. obscurus.* Under tail-coverts creamy white, instead of olive-green.

"*Female.* Everywhere dull greyish olive, becoming more yellowish on the abdomen and under tail-coverts. Throat and cheeks dull greyish.

"*Young male.* Similar to the adult male, but all the colours strongly suffused with an ochraceous tinge.

"Iris dark brown; bill blackish brown, greyish at the base; feet and legs bright slaty blue, soles of the feet yellowish. Wing 3·1 to 3·3 inches, culmen 2·9 to 3·1 (much longer than that of *H. obscurus*)."

Mr. Henry Seebohm exhibited two males, a female, and a young male in first plumage of a new species of *Merula,* which he proposed to call

Merula whiteheadi, sp. n.

Supra brunnea, capite canescente, abdomine castaneo, ventre medio albo, subcaudalibus albo striatis.

The specimens were procured near Tozari in East Java, 7000 feet above sea-level, in August and September 1886, by Mr. John Whitehead.

Mr. Seebohm also made some critical remarks on a recent paper by Mr. Büttikofer on the same group of Thrushes (Notes Leyd. Mus. xv. p. 109), and exhibited the type specimen of *Merula papuensis* of De Vis, which had been lent to him by the describer for illustration in his forthcoming 'Monograph of the Turdidæ.'

Mr. SEEBOHM next exhibited and made remarks upon a new species of *Zosterops* from East Java, procured by Mr. John Whitehead in 1886, which he proposed to call

ZOSTEROPS NEGLECTA, sp. n.

Similis *Z. palpebrosæ*, sed magis olivascens, et macula anteoculari obscuriore distinguenda.

This makes the sixth species of *Zosterops* found on the island of Java.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE read a paper on the Classification of the *Rallidæ*. He pointed out that the popular division of the family into Rails, Gallinules, and Coots was an untenable one, the Coots alone having definite characters for their separation as a subfamily, and that even these characters were approached by those of the Gallinules. It seemed, therefore, best to keep the whole of the Rails together as a family, and not to recognize minor divisions such as those specified. The gradual transition from typical Rails to Crakes (e. g. *Eulabeornis—Rallina*), and from Crakes to Gallinules (*Limnobænus* and *Amaurornis* to *Gallinula*), was so marked that it was impossible to say where the Rails ended and the Crakes began, or where the Crakes ended and the Gallinules began.

According to Dr. Sharpe's views, the Rails were an ancient group of birds, which were once more numerously distributed, especially in the southern hemisphere. Many of the surviving representatives of the family, from their isolation and restricted habitats, had become modified in structure, and a much larger number of generic forms existed than had hitherto been supposed.

The following were the genera which Dr. Sharpe proposed to recognize:—1. *Rallus,* L.; 2. *Limnopardalus,* Cab.; 3. *Hypotænidia,* Reichenb.; 4. *Cabalus,* Hutton; 5. *Eulabeornis,* Gould; 6. *Tricholimnas,* gen. n.; 7. *Gymnocrex,* Salvad.; 8. *Aramides,* Pucher.; 9. *Megacrex,* Salvad.; 10. *Habroptila,* Gray; 11. *Ocydromus,* Wagl.; 12. *Aphanapteryx,* Frauenf.; 13. *Diaphorapteryx,* Forbes; 14. *Erythromachus,* Milne-Edwards; 15. *Himantornis,* Schl.; 16. *Dryolimnas,* gen. n.; 17. *Canirallus,* Hartl.; 18. *Rallina,* Reichenb.; 19. *Castanolimnas,* gen. n.; 20. *Crecopsis,* gen. n.; 21. *Crex,* Bechst.; 22. *Œnolimnas,* gen. n.; 23. *Amaurolimnas,* gen. n.; 24. *Anurolimnas,* gen. n.; 25. *Zapornia,* Leach; 26. *Porzana,* Vieill.; 27. *Pennula,* Dole; 28. *Aphanolimnas,* Sharpe; 29. *Corethrura,* Reichenb.; 30. *Rallicula,* Schl.; 31. *Thyrorhina,* Scl. & Salv.; 32. *Ortygops,* Heine; 33. *Poliolimnas,* gen. n.; 34. *Porzanula,* Frohawk; 35. *Creciscus,* Cab.; 36. *Limnocorax,* Swains.; 37. *Limnobænus,* Sund.; 38. *Amaurornis,* Reichenb.; 39. *Rougetius,* Bp.; 40. *Neocrex,* Scl. & Salv.; 41. *Tribonyx,* Du Bus; 42. *Microtribonyx,* gen. n.; 43. *Pareudiastes,* Hartl. & Finsch; 44. *Porphyriornis,* Allen; 45. *Gallinula,* Briss.; 46. *Porphyriops,* Pucher.; 47. *Gallicrex,* Blyth; 48. *Psammocrex,* Oust.; 49. *Ionornis,* Reichenb.; 50. *Porphyrio,* Briss.; 51. *Notornis,* Mantell; 52. *Fulica,* Briss.; 53. *Leguatia,* Schl. Besides these genera there were a few fossil forms, the exact position of which it was difficult to define.

Dr. Sharpe stated that he had lately examined the type specimen of *Gallirallus brachypterus,* from the Caen Museum. For the loan of the specimen he was indebted to Professor Joyeux-Laffine, the Director of that Museum. Dr. Sharpe pointed out that the species had been the subject of much controversial opinion, but it was evidently of the same species as *Gallirallus fuscus* of Du Bus, which must therefore be known as *Ocydromus brachypterus* (Lafr.). The species identified by Sir Walter Buller as *O. brachypterus,* and figured as such in his 'Birds of New Zealand,' had in consequence been wrongly determined.

The following were the characters of the new genera proposed by Dr. Sharpe:—

Tricholimnas, gen. n. Simile generi "*Eulabeornis*" dicto, sed tectricibus alarum maximè elongatis, remiges ipsas celantibus, distinguendum.
Typus *T. lafresnayanus* (Verr.).

Dryolimnas, gen. n. Simile generi "*Canirallus*" dicto et culmine longiore quam digitus internus cum ungue, sed naribus longitudinalibus angustissimis, aperturâ nasali vix evidente, distinguendum.
Typus *D. cuvieri* (Pucher.).

Castanolimnas, gen. n. Simile generi "*Rallina*" dicto, sed secundariis primariisque æqualibus, et tectricibus alarum elongatis, remigibus albo fasciatis, rectricibus mollibus decompositis, distinguendum.
Typus *C. canningi* (Blyth).

Crecopsis, gen. n. Simile præcedenti, sed dorso variegato, remigibus concoloribus, et remigibus rectricibusque normalibus distinguendum.
Typus *C. egregia* (Peters).

Œnolimnas, gen. n. Simile generi "*Crex*" dicto, sed ptilosi concolori haud variegatâ, rectricibus latissimis, ad apicem decompositis distinguendum.
Typus *Œ. isabellinus* (Schl.).

Amaurolimnas, gen. n. Simile generi "*Crex*" dicto, sed rostro longiore, culmine digito interno æquali, distinguendum.
Typus *A. concolor* (Gosse).

Anurolimnas, gen. n. Digito medio cum ungue longiore quam culmen, rectricibus haud evidentibus, mollibus, decompositis, a tectricibus caudalibus celatis, distinguendum.
Typus *A. castaneiceps* (Scl. & Salv.).

Poliolimnas, gen. n. Simile generi "*Porzana*" dicto, sed secundariis primariisque æqualibus, alis pedibusque fortibus, illis tarso et digitis æquantibus, distinguendum.
Typus *P. cinereus* (V.).

MICROTRIBONYX, gen. n. Simile generi "*Tribonyx*" dicto, sed alis robustis, primariis quam cubitales longioribus, distinguendum.

Typus *M. ventralis* (Gould).

By permission of the Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Dr. SHARPE was enabled to lay on the table some specimens of *Ocydromi* belonging to the Rothschild Museum. These were from the Buller collection, and were supposed to illustrate the species of *Ocydromus* recognized by Sir Walter Buller in his second edition of the 'Birds of New Zealand'; but Dr. Sharpe found it very difficult to follow the author in his conclusions, and he infinitely preferred the more simple view as to the number of species which had been adopted in the *first* edition of the 'Birds of New Zealand.'

In the second edition Sir Walter Buller, after discussing at some length the number of species, which had been debated between Professor Hutton and himself, came to the conclusion that five species should be recognized, viz.:— *O. greyi*, sp. nov.; *O. fuscus* (Du Bus); *O. earli*, Gray; *O. australis* (Sparrman); *O. brachypterus* (Lafr.). The plates in Sir Walter Buller's work did not help much towards the identification of the species; for although in nearly every case the actual specimens figured were now in the Rothschild collection, it was almost impossible to recognize them in the chromo-lithographic plates themselves. The question was further complicated by the misleading way in which the species were arranged in the book referred to. Thus, between *O. greyi* and *O. earli* (the latter not being even figured) was interposed *O. fuscus*, the most distinct of all the Weka Rails; so that the idea was conveyed that *O. greyi* of Buller and *O. earli* of Gray were widely different species, whereas Dr. Sharpe stated that, in his opinion, they were not distinguishable. Sir Walter Buller wished to restrict the true *O. earli* to the South Island, because it seemed to be identical with some specimens procured by Mr. Reischek in the latter island. As a matter of fact, however, the type specimen of *O. earli* was a young bird; and even if there were two species inhabiting the North and South Islands respectively, Dr. Sharpe maintained that it would be perfectly impossible to say to which of these species the young birds belonged. After comparing two of Mr. Reischek's South-Island specimens in the Rothschild collection, supposed by Sir Walter Buller to be the true *O. earli*, with the series of so-called *O. greyi* from the North Island, Dr. Sharpe admitted his inability to separate them even as races. With regard to *O. australis* the question of races was much more difficult, and at first sight it would appear that two well-defined forms could be distinguished—one a sandy-tinted bird, and the other a cinnamon-tinted one. Between these two, however, there appeared to be every possible link and gradation of colour; so that it was impossible to define any races or subspecies. Sir Walter Buller, in his second edition, had indeed hinted that altitude and locality had something to do with the variations in plumage; but the want of labels and definite localities in the specimens of the Buller collection prevented Dr. Sharpe from drawing any satisfactory conclusion.

While speaking of the genus *Ocydromus*, Dr. Sharpe remarked that the so-called *Ocydromus sylvestris*, Sclater, from Lord Howe Island, was not an *Ocydromus* in his opinion, but a *Cabalus*, congeneric with *Cabalus dieffenbachi* from the Chatham Islands, and should therefore be called *Cabalus sylvestris*.

Mr. SEEBOHM made remarks on the Geographical Distribution of British Birds, recognizing 401 species and 13 subspecies as having more or less claim to be admitted to the list.

The next Dinner will take place on February 15th, at the Restaurant Frascati (Krasnopolsky), 32 Oxford Street, W., at 7 o'clock.

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.*	R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.*	HOWARD SAUNDERS, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. VI.

The fifth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 15th of February, 1893.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, H. E. Dresser, H. O. Forbes, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, Col. L. Howard Irby, Dr. St. George Mivart, F.R.S., E. Neale, H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, Capt. Savile Reid, Howard Saunders (*Treas.*), R. Bowdler Sharpe, Henry Seebohm, J. T. Tristram-Valentine.

Guests: C. Fletcher, Ernst Hartert, Charles Hose.

Mr. H. E. Dresser exhibited on behalf of Mr. John Whitehead a specimen of a *Cryptolopha* from the island of Palawan, which Dr. Sharpe had identified as *Cryptolopha montis* (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1888, p. 199). Mr. Whitehead, however, proposed to separate it from the Kina-Balu species, on account of its yellow rump, and called it

Cryptolopha xanthopygia, sp. n.

Similis *C. montis*, sed rostro crassiore et uropygio sulphureo distinguenda.

Hab. in montibus insulæ Palawanensis.

[*March 1st*, 1893.]

Mr. SEEBOHM exhibited an egg supposed to be that of the Knot (*Tringa canutus*) taken near Disco in Greenland.

A communication was read from Mr. OSBERT SALVIN, F.R.S., on two new species of birds from Nicaragua, as follows:—

"In a collection of birds recently sent by Mr. W. B. Richardson from Nicaragua, several interesting species are represented which, so far as I know, have not hitherto been noticed in Nicaragua. Thus we find *Thryophilus costaricensis*, the Costa Rican form of *T. castaneus*, as well as *T. thoracicus* and *Thryothorus atrigularis*, both of which, however, have been noticed at Greytown. Skins of a *Cyphorhinus* from Santo Domingo, in Chontales, differ from *C. lawrencii* and may be described as

"CYPHORHINUS RICHARDSONI, sp. n.

"♂ *C. lawrencii* affinis, sed supra pallidior, et loris, sicut gula, distincte castaneis, necnon tectricibus alarum minoribus vix transfasciatis distinguendus.

"Mr. Richardson also sends a specimen of *Piprites griseiceps* from San Carlos, which is only the second we have seen; and, along with several interesting Formicariidæ, an example of a new *Rhopoterpe*, a genus not yet included in the Central-American fauna. This we propose to call

"RHOPOTERPE STICTOPTERA, sp. n.

"♂ *R. torquatæ* affinis et ejusdem staturæ necnon coloribus plerumque similibus; sed capite summo obscuriore, uropygio et cauda fuscescentioribus, remigibus in pogonio externo ad apicem cervino distincte notatis, maculis celatis in pogonio interno cervinis (nec albis), et tectricibus majoribus late cervino terminatis distinguendus.

"*Hab.* Nicaragua; Santo Domingo.

"We also find a single specimen of *Conurus finschi*, originally described from Panama specimens; and a pair, taken at Leon, of the pretty little *Gampsonyx swainsoni*, a well-known bird in South America, but quite new to the Central-American fauna."

A second communication from Mr. SALVIN related to a new species of Petrel.

In the collection of birds made by Mr. Hawkins on the Chatham Islands were two specimens of an *Œstrelata* belonging to a species allied to *Œ. cooki*, but which differed in several marked characters. The skins were not quite adult, but were marked male and female; the birds were shot on the south-east island on the 8th of May, 1892. Mr. Salvin proposed to describe the species as follows:—

ŒSTRELATA AXILLARIS, sp. n.

Œ. cooki affinis, sed minor; rostro breviore et magis robusto; supra pallidior, tectricibus alarum mediis cinerascentibus albo limbatis, rectricibus lateralibus magis cinereis; axillaribus et tectricibus alarum secundariis subtus nigris: rostro nigro, pedibus carneis, digitis et palamis plerumque nigris ad basin carneis. Long. tota circa 12·0 poll., alæ 8·3, caudæ rectr. med. 3·8, rectr. lat. 3·2, rostri a rictu 1·3, tarsi 1·2, dig. med. cum ungue 1·5.

Hab. Chatham Islands.

Mr. E. HARTERT exhibited the type-specimens of *Hemignathus lanaiensis*, Rothschild, from Lanai, described at the last Meeting of the Club, as well as examples of its nearest allies.

Mr. HARTERT also exhibited the skin of a Goose, supposed by him to be a hybrid between *Bernicla brenta* and *Anser albifrons*.

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM gave a short explanation of a theory propounded by Dr. Nicholski, of St. Petersburg, to account for the variation in the shape of birds' eggs.

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT made some remarks on the classification of the Game Birds and on the changes of the plumage in the *Tetraonidæ*.

Mr. SCLATER drew attention to the protected district round Aden as being very convenient for an ornithological excursion, and a place where it was evident, from Lieut. Barnes' recent article in 'The Ibis,' that much more good work remained to be done.

The next Dinner will take place on March 15th, at the Restaurant Frascati (Krasnopolsky), 32 Oxford Street, W., at 7 o'clock.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, R. Bowdler Sharpe, Howard Saunders,
Chairman. *Editor.* *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. VII.

THE sixth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 15th of March, 1893.

Chairman: ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. BIDWELL, P. CROWLEY, H. E. DRESSER, W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, F. PENROSE, ROBERT H. READ, P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S., J. T. TRISTRAM-VALENTINE.

Guests: E. HARTERT, C. HOSE, Prof. G. MARTORELLI.

On behalf of the Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Mr. E. HARTERT exhibited the type specimens of a new genus and species of Fringilline bird from the Sandwich Islands. Mr. Rothschild proposed for it the name of *Pseudonestor xanthophrys.*

PSEUDONESTOR, gen. nov.

This genus is nearest allied to *Psittacirostra,* but differs in the following points:—

1. Male and female are similar in colour and markings, whereas they are quite differently coloured in *Psittacirostra.*

2. The female is considerably smaller than the male, whereas the sexes are similar in size in *Psittacirostra.*

3. The principal difference is that, whereas the female of *Pseudonestor* has a beak similar to that of *Psittacirostra* though much more curved, the male of *Pseudonestor* has an

[*March 28th*, 1893.]

enormously hooked bill, much resembling in shape that of a Nestor Parrot, the maxilla being nearly twice the length of the mandible. In *Psittacirostra,* on the other hand, the bills of the sexes are the same.

Pseudonestor xanthophrys, sp. nov.

Adult male. Top of head and whole upper surface bright olive-green. Lores and superciliary stripe golden yellow. Throat and breast dull yellow, with an olive tinge, which is strongly pronounced on the flanks; under tail-coverts yellow, under wing-coverts yellowish white. Wings and tail blackish brown, each feather bordered with olive-green. Wing 3 inches, tail 1·9, culmen 1·1, lower mandible 0·5, tarsus 0·9.

Adult female. Similar to the male in colour, but much more grey on the back and the abdomen much more tinged with olive. Wing 2·6 to 2·7 inches, tail 1·6, culmen 0·65, lower mandible 0·4, tarsus 0·8.

"Iris dark hazel; upper mandible dark grey, basal half paler; feet slate-colour, soles orange" (*Palmer*).

Hab. Island of Mauai, Sandwich Islands.

Mr. Hartert also exhibited some interesting specimens of birds from the Sandwich Islands and Laysan:—*Rhodacanthis palmeri* and *R. flaviceps,* Rothsch., from Hawaii; *Telespiza cantans,* Wilson, and *T. flavissima,* Rothsch., from Laysan; *Chloridops kona,* Wilson, from Hawaii; *Loxioides bailleui,* Oust., from Hawaii.

A communication from Dr. Bowdler Sharpe referred to the distribution of the Fin-feet (*Heliornithidæ*). He pointed out that hitherto the Burmese *Podica personata* had been considered to be congeneric with *Podica senegalensis* of Africa. Dr. Sharpe showed, however, that its affinities lay with the American *Heliornis fulica,* which had the same-shaped bill and wings and the same soft tail, very different from the stiff-ribbed rectrices of *P. senegalensis.* The webbing of the toes was different in the two genera, and

Dr. Sharpe proposed for the Burmese species the new generic name of

HELIOPAIS, gen. n.

H. similis generi '*Heliornis*' dicto, sed digitis tantum ad basin palmatis nec flavo fasciatis distinguendus.
Typus. *Podica personata,* Gray.

Dr. SHARPE also communicated the diagnoses of some apparently new genera of Cranes (*Gruidæ*), as follows:—

1. LIMNOGERANUS, gen. n.

Genus simile generi '*Grus*' dicto, sed genis anticis nudis, pileo usque ad nucham nudo, loris nudis, regione suboculari et postoculari plumosâ distinguendum.
Typus. *Limnogeranus americanus* (L.).

2. SARCOGERANUS, gen. n.

Genus simile præcedenti, sed pileo antico tantum nudo, pileo postico plumoso, genis posticis quoque plumosis, loris et regione oculari nudis distinguendum.
Typus. *Sarcogeranus leucogeranus* (Pall.).

3. PSEUDOGERANUS, gen. n.

Genus simile generi '*Antigone*' dicto, sed regione paroticâ genisque plumosis, regione supra- et infra-oculari et faciei lateribus nudis, collo postico plumoso, usque ad verticem anticam producto, distinguendum.
Typus. *Pseudogeranus leucauchen* (T.).

Mr. HARTERT laid on the table some specimens of a new Finch which he had discovered during his recent visit to the Dutch West India Islands. He proposed to call it

EUETHEIA SHARPEI, sp. nov.

♂. *E. bicolori* affinis, differt colore nigro supra ad frontem restricto, nec ad occiput extenso, notæi colore pallidiore, pectore nigro minus clariore.
♀. *E. bicolori* simillima.
Al. 2 ad 2·15 poll.
Hab. Bonaire, Curaçao, Aruba.

Mr. E. Bidwell exhibited the humerus of a Coot, which showed a comminuted fracture afterwards completely healed.

Mr. Robert Read made some remarks on the changes of plumage in the Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), and exhibited the head of a recently killed specimen which clearly proved that the black hood was gained in the spring by a change of colour in some of the feathers as well as by a complete moult in others.

The next Dinner will take place on April 19th, at the Restaurant Frascati (Krasnopolsky), 32 Oxford Street, W., at 7 o'clock.

(Signed)

St. George Mivart, *Chairman.*	R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*	Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. VIII.

The seventh meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 19th of April, 1893.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, P. Crowley, H. E. Dresser, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, St. George Mivart, F.R.S., H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, Robert H. Read, Howard Saunders (*Treasurer*), Henry Seebohm, R. Bowdler Sharpe, G. E. Shelley, J. Stoneham, J. T. Tristram-Valentine.

Guests: E. Hartert, W. Hartmann, R. B. Newton, Hon. Walter Rothschild, W. H. Simpson.

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited some skins of rare species of Game-Birds, the principal being *Caccabis magna*, Prjev., and *Phasianus satscheunensis*, Prjev., specimens of which had recently been sent in exchange to the British Museum by Dr. Pleske.

Mr. Ernst Hartert exhibited a new Scops-Owl, which he characterized as follows:—

Pisorhina solokensis, sp. n.

Top of head and neck deep brown, nearly blackish; ear-

[*May 1st*, 1893.]

tufts white, with black on the tips and outer webs of the feathers; a white line, varied with some small blackish spots, extending from the ear-tufts over the eyes, and meeting on the forehead; a white spot on the occiput; a broad, whitish, nuchal band and another one on the lower hind neck. Back and rump blackish brown, with pale rusty brown spots and blotches. Rectrices similar in colour to the back, but somewhat duller. Primaries deep brown, with very pale brown, almost whitish, spots along the outer webs; secondaries spotted on both webs. Wing-coverts deep blackish brown, with very large white spots on the outer webs. Throat and breast mixed pale brown, rusty, blackish, and whitish, more albescent towards the abdomen. Lower abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts white. Tarsal plumes nearly white. Under wing-coverts brown and white. Toes entirely bare up to the tarsus, which is thickly feathered, yellowish brown (in skin). Bill whitish horn-colour (in skin). Total length about 10 inches, wing 6·7, tail 3·1, tarsus 1·2, middle toe 0·9, culmen 1·2.

Hab. Hills of Solok, west coast of Sumatra.

Remarks. The type specimen belongs to the Stuttgart Museum, and was sent me for comparison by Count von Berlepsch, who believed it to be new to science. Its nearest ally is *Scops everetti*, from which it is chiefly distinguished by the great amount of white on the ear-tufts and wing-coverts and by the white bands on the neck, as well as by the pure white lower abdomen and whitish tarsal plumes.

I am indebted to Professor Lampert, of the Stuttgart Museum, and to Count Berlepsch, for the opportunity of describing this new species from an island in the natural history of which I am particularly interested.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited an example of a new species of Rail, which he described as follows:—

Rallus muelleri, sp. n.

Upper surface of head, occiput, and neck brownish red, faintly and irregularly striated with black; back and rump bright chestnut, with the centres of the feathers black; wings brownish black, faintly edged with rufous grey; cheeks reddish grey; centre of the throat reddish white; lower part of throat and breast rufous grey; flanks, abdomen, and under tail-coverts black, each feather tipped with pale rufous, and with two white bands; tail rufous, with indistinct grey bands. Wing 3·3 inches, culmen 1·1, tarsus 1·1, central toe with claw 1·3, tail 1·3.

Hab. Auckland Island, south of New Zealand.

Remarks. This little Rail in general appearance resembles *Rallus lewini* from Australia, but on comparison presents so many important differences that it might almost be separated generically. The chief distinguishing feature of the new species is the enormous development of the feathers on the back and rump, which have become a huge bunch like that of the Puff-birds (*Bucco*) of South America.

The single specimen was sent for description by Count von Berlepsch, who considered it to belong to a new species. It is the property of the Stuttgart Museum. It is named in honour of the famous botanist, Baron von Müller, of Melbourne, who presented the specimen.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited three new birds which he had lately received from his collector in the Sandwich Islands, and characterized them as follows:—

ACRULOCERCUS BISHOPI, sp. n.

Adult male. Head and occiput black, with a slight gloss; shafts of the feathers rather paler. Rest of the upper and entire under surface smoky black, with narrow white shaft-lines to the feathers. Axillary tufts smaller than in *A. nobilis*, but also bright yellow. Ear-coverts with an elongated tuft of very narrow feathers about an inch long and of a deep golden yellow. Under tail-coverts golden yellow. Under wing-coverts sooty black, with indistinct white patches. Tail shorter than in *A. nobilis*, but more pointed, as in *A. apicalis*. Total length about 11 inches, wing 4·5, tail 6·5, tarsus 1·5, culmen 1·4.

Adult female. Similar to the male, but considerably smaller. Wing 4 inches, tail 5, tarsus 1·35, culmen 1·2.

Hab. Island of Molokai.

Named in honour of Mr. Bishop, of Honolulu.

HIMATIONE NEWTONI, sp. n.

Closely allied to *H. montana* of Lanai, but has the upper surface dark olive-green instead of olive-yellow. Rump and upper tail-coverts green instead of bright yellow. The yellow on the forehead is much less extended. The underparts, instead of being entirely yellow, are only yellow in the central area; flanks and sides of body olive-green. Under tail-coverts yellowish white instead of yellow as in *H. montana*. Wing 2·5 to 2·6 inches, tail 2 (2·75 in *H. montana*, according to Mr. Scott Wilson), tarsus 0·87, culmen 4·75.

Hab. Island of Mauai.

HIMATIONE WILSONI, sp. n.

Similar to *H. stejnegeri* of Kauai, but smaller, the beak considerably less and straighter, in this respect resembling *H. virens* of Hawaii. General colour more yellowish, especially on the rump and under surface. *Female* paler than the male. Wing 2·45 inches, tail 1·65 (nearly 2 inches in *H. stejnegeri*), culmen 0·55 (nearly or fully 0·8 in *H. stejnegeri*), tarsus 0·8.

Hab. Island of Mauai.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE stated that during a recent visit to Leyden he had examined the type of *Rallus sandwichensis* of Latham, and wished to apologize to Dr. Hartlaub for having suggested that the bird was probably the same as *Pennula ecaudata*. The specimen had probably faded considerably from its original colour, as appeared to be proved by the deep vinous chestnut of the lower abdomen and vent, these parts having been more shaded from the light, and here the colour of the under surface approximated to that of *P. ecaudata*. The rest of the under surface was of a rusty vinous colour, and seemed to be much as Latham described it originally. Nothing, however, could have altered the colour of the back, which still retained the streaked appearance indicated by Latham.

Dr. Sharpe also stated that the type of *Grus cinerea longirostris*, T. & S., in the Leyden Museum, showed that this name applied to *Grus mexicana* and not to *Grus canadensis*, as was generally supposed to be the case.

Mr. Sclater made some remarks on the splendid series of mounted birds, illustrative of the Italian avifauna, which had been collected for the Museum of the Reale Istituto degli Studii Superiori, of Florence, by Dr. E. H. Giglioli. The most recent addition to the ornis of Italy was stated to be *Lanius algeriensis*.

He also mentioned the migratory birds which had visited the s.s. 'Oruba,' between Gibraltar and Malta, from March 29th to April 1st. He had been disappointed at the small numbers observed. Those recognized were the Swallow, hen Redstart, Song-Thrush, Wheatear, and Robin. A Nightjar was on the ship for several hours on April 1st, when nearing Naples.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited a curious melanistic variety of a Razorbill (*Alca torda*), and examples of some interesting Asiatic species, *Merula kessleri, Ibidorhynchus kaufmanni*, &c.

Mr. Robert Read exhibited a Black-headed Gull, which had nearly attained the plumage of the adult, but had the bill and feet of an orange colour.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe read a paper, illustrated by diagrams, on fossil birds, showing our present state of knowledge of extinct species.

The next Meeting will take place on May 17th, at the Restaurant Frascati (Krasnopolsky), 32 Oxford Street, W., at 8.30 o'clock, when the following communication will be made :—

Mr. H. Saunders.—On the Distribution of Birds in France, considered chiefly with reference to occurrences in Great Britain.

The Dinner will be at 7 p.m.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*	R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*	Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. IX.

The eighth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 17th of May, 1893.

Chairman: Henry Seebohm.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, W. E. De Winton, H. E. Dresser, H. O. Forbes, W. Graham, E. Hartert, A. P. Lloyd, F. Penrose, Hon. Walter Rothschild, Howard Saunders (*Treasurer*), R. Bowdler Sharpe, Charles Stonham, Col. R. W. Studdy, J. T. Tristram-Valentine, H. M. Upcher.

Mr. H. O. Forbes exhibited the eggs of some rare species of birds from the Chatham Islands, amongst which were those of *Thinornis novæ zealandiæ* and *Gallinago pusilla*, of which birds the nestlings were also shown. He also exhibited the egg of *Cabalus modestus*, which had been obtained on Mangare, one of the Chatham group, by Mr. Hawkins. The egg was *white*, but its Ralline character was indicated by a faint double spotting of grey and rufous. It measured :—axis 1·45, diam. 1·1.

Mr. Forbes also exhibited adult males, females, and young birds of *Cabalus modestus*, and remarked that there could now be no question of the validity of the species, as distinct

[*June* 1st, 1893.]

from *C. dieffenbachii*, and he must retract his former opinion (*anteà*, p. xx).

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe observed that it was a singular fact that this little Rail should possess in its adult plumage the exact dress which might have been expected to characterize the young of *C. dieffenbachii*; and even with the evidence now before them it was difficult to believe that the birds were fully adult. Count Salvadori's opinion with regard to the specimen exhibited at the fifth meeting of the Club had now been proved to be the correct one.

The CHAIRMAN read a paper on behalf of Canon Tristram, F.R.S., entitled "An undescribed Species of Snipe from the New Zealand region," in which the author made the following remarks:—

In 1846 Mr. G. R. Gray, in the 'Birds of the Erebus and Terror,' described a Snipe from the Auckland Islands as *Gallinago aucklandica*. There is no evidence that this bird has ever occurred in New Zealand. In 'The Ibis' for 1869, p. 41, Sir W. Buller described a second species from the Chatham Islands as *Gallinago pusilla*. Very few specimens have been received, but the species has twice been obtained in New Zealand (to which it is evidently an occasional wanderer): once by Sir James Hector in the Gulf of Hauraki, and once by Mr. F. B. Hill on Little Barrier Island. All doubts as to its being a distinct species have recently been set at rest by the large number of specimens obtained in the Chatham Islands by the collectors of the Hon. Walter Rothschild and Mr. H. O. Forbes. I have examined more than twenty specimens, and find that all of them agree in every respect, and cannot be confused with the Auckland Island species. But when Sir W. Buller published his second edition of the 'Birds of New Zealand,' he had unfortunately sent back to New Zealand his only specimen from the Chatham Islands, and borrowed from me a specimen which had been obtained by Baron A. von Hügel on the Snares, seventy miles south of the southern extremity of New Zealand. This I had put down as *Gallinago pusilla*, having at that time never seen a

Chatham Island specimen. It is very accurately figured and coloured in Buller's second edition; but it proves to be very different from the true *G. pusilla*. The only other example in existence, so far as I am aware, is a second specimen obtained on the Snares at the same time by Baron A. von Hügel, and in the collection of the Hon. Walter Rothschild. I propose to discriminate it as

GALLINAGO HUEGELI, sp. nov.

G. pileo et loris nigro-fuscis; corpore supra rufescente cervino variegato; plumis rufo strictè marginatis; cervice rufescente, brunneo densè striatâ; pectore et abdomine castaneis brunneo densè fasciatis; remigibus brunneis; rectricibus quatuordecim, tribus externis perangustis cum margine albo; tarsis et pedibus albidis. Long. alæ 4·1, rostri 2, tarsi ·9.

Hab. Snares Islands.

This species may at once be distinguished from its congeners by its much redder hue, and especially by the remarkable fineness and delicacy of its markings, the edgings of the upper plumage and the striation and bands on the lower surface being very much smaller, closer, and more distinct. In the other two species the abdomen and thighs are whitish, while in this they are thickly barred. In this species the three outer tail-feathers on each side are attenuated with a white edging. In the others only the two outer pairs of tail-feathers appear to be so attenuated.

There would therefore appear to be three species of *Gallinago* in the islands round New Zealand:—*G. aucklandica* in the Aucklands, *G. pusilla* in the Chathams, and *G. huegeli* in the Snares, all being sedentary, or nearly so, in their several localities. To these further research will probably add a fourth from Antipodes Island, whence a single specimen has been received by Sir Jas. Hector, who stated it to be larger, darker in plumage, and with a more curved bill than the Auckland species. Unfortunately he did not describe it.

I subjoin the measurements of the three species:—

	Bill. inch.	Wing. inch.	Tarsus. inch.
Gallinago aucklandica	2·2	4·2	1·0
" "	..	4·1	1·0
G. huegeli	2·0	4·1	·9
G. pusilla	1·7	3·6	·8
"	1·5	3·5	·8
"	1·7	3·5	·8
"	1·6	3·7	·8

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD exhibited and described a new species of Albatross :—

DIOMEDEA IMMUTABILIS, sp. n.

Adult. Head, neck, lower rump, and entire under surface pure white ; space in front of the eye sooty black ; wings and wing-coverts blackish brown ; interscapular region, back, and upper part of rump paler and more smoky brown ; tail black, fading into white at the bases ; under wing-coverts mixed, blackish brown and white : "bill grey, darker at base, tip blackish brown ; base of under mandible pale yellow ; iris brown ; tarsi and feet fleshy pink" (*H. C. Palmer*). Wing 19 inches, bill 4, tarsus 3·2, middle toe with claw 4·3.

This Albatross belongs to the typical section of *Diomedea* as limited by Mr. Salvin, and is at once distinguished by attaining the coloration of the adult bird in the first plumage. The young in down is pale brown with a blackish-brown bill.

Hab. Laysan Island, North Pacific.

Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS made some remarks upon the distribution of Birds in France, especially with reference to some species which passed beyond that country as far as Great Britain. He pointed out that a great part of France consisted of elevated table-land, and that one main line of migration passed along the Rhone Valley and across the Langres Plateau on the east ; while on the west side the line ran parallel with the coast until it was deflected eastward by the high ground in Britanny and Manche—so that the Channel Islands received few visits from rarities. In Normandy, however, *Tichodroma muraria, Gyps fulvus, Larus melanocephalus,* and many other unusual visitants to England had occurred several times; *Passer petronia, Emberiza cia, Ægithalus pendulinus,* and *Vultur monachus* had also been obtained, while *Aquila pennata* had even bred there. On the other hand, *Picus martius,* said—falsely as he believed—to have occurred in England, had never been met with in Normandy. He further remarked upon the Brenne district in the centre of France as promising an unusually fine field for ornithologists, and mentioned some limestone cliffs in the Cevennes, which were undoubtedly frequented by Vultures, although proof of their breeding there was as yet wanting.

Mr. OSBERT SALVIN, F.R.S., contributed descriptions of two supposed new species of *Metallura* from Ecuador, which he proposed to call:—

1. METALLURA ATRIGULARIS, sp. n.

♂ ad. Similis *M. primolinæ* sed gula media intense nigra plumis ad basin castaneis et medialiter fascia transversa angusta amethystina notatis. Aliter fera ut in sp. cit.

♀. Gula inornata, rectricibus lateralibus albido terminatis.

Long. alæ 2·2, caudæ 1·5, rostri a rictu 0·65.

Hab. Ecuador: Hills near Sigsig, not far from Cuenca, alt. 12,000 feet (*O. T. Baron*).

2. METALLURA BARONI, sp. n.

♂ ad. Supra saturate cupreo-viridis, capite obscuriore; subtus cum tectricibus subcaudalibus ejusdem coloris; gula tota saturate amethystina micanti; cauda saturate viridi infra nitentiore. Long. alæ 2·2, caudæ 1·4, rostri a rictu 0·65.

♀ ad. Mari similis sed subtus plumis omnibus ad basin cervini abdomine toto maculis discalibus obscure viridi; gula maculis saturate amethystinis notatis; rectricibus externis vix sordide albo-terminatis.

Hab. Ecuador: Hills near Cuenca, alt. 12,000 feet (*O. T. Baron*).

Mr. O. T. Baron had recently submitted to Mr. Salvin beautifully prepared specimens of both sexes of each of these species, which are quite distinct from any of the other species known to him. Both of them belong to the same section of the genus as *M. primolina.*

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe proposed the following new genera for the *Otides* or Bustards:—

Heterotis, gen. n. Simile generi "*Compsotis*" dicto, sed tarso brevi distinguendum.

Typus est *Heterotis vigorsi* (Smith).

Other species belonging to this new genus were *H. rueppelli* (Wahlb.) and *H. humilis* (Blyth).

Neotis, gen. n. Simile generi "*Lissotis*" dicto, sed rostro longiore, culmine digitum medium cum ungue excedente.

Typus est *Neotis ludwigi* (Rüpp).

Other species of this genus were *N. burchelli* (Heugl.), *N. denhami* (Childr.), *N. caffra* (Licht.), and *N. heuglini* (Hartl.).

Houbaropsis, gen. n. Simile generi "*Houbara*" dicto, sed plumis jugularibus valde elongatis, pileo nuchaque aliter cristatis, tarsis longissimis distinguendum.

Typus est *Houbaropsis bengalensis* (Gm.).

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited a fine pair of *Paradisea gulielmi secundi* from Kaiser Wilhelm's Land in N.E. New Guinea.

Mr. H. O. Forbes wished to make a correction with reference to the genus he had described at a former Meeting of the B. O. C. as *Diaphorapteryx.* He had accepted the opinion of Prof. Newton that the remains from Mauritius and those from the Chatham Islands belonged to distinct genera, and adopted his suggestion of the name *Diaphorapteryx*; but after personally examining the Mauritian remains at Cambridge, Mr. Forbes could not see his way to agree that the two forms were generically different. He was therefore constrained to discard his new genus and to reinstate that of *Aphanapteryx* for the Ocydromine remains from both of the above-named islands.

Mr. Forbes also exhibited the Dinornithine tibiæ on which he had based a new genus, *Palæocasuarius,* and pointed out that the bone differed from the tibia of *Dinornis* (in its widest sense) in being straighter and less twisted on itself, so that the position of the ridge forming the inner wall of the groove for the tendons of the extensor muscles ran along the inner side of the bone, as in *Casuarius.* As in the latter genus also, it took a marked bend inwards and backwards before joining the epicnemial crest, while a line joining the centre point between the distal condyles and the epicnemial ridge left a considerable space between it and the wall of the groove. There was no intercondylar eminence in the intercondylar channel, and the orifice of the extensor foramen opened more longitudinally than in *Dinornis* and pointed downwards. Mr. Forbes described two species, *P. haasti* and *P. velox,* distinguishing them by their size.

The next Meeting will take place on June 21st, at the Restaurant Frascati (Krasnopolsky), 32 Oxford Street, W., at 8.30 o'clock, when the Treasurer will make a financial statement. The Dinner will be at 7 P.M.

(Signed)

HENRY SEEBOHM, *Chairman.*	R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.*	HOWARD SAUNDERS, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. X.

The ninth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of June, 1893.

Chairman : P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present :—R. S. Clarke, H. E. Dresser, H. O. Forbes, W. R. Ogilvie Grant, E. Hartert, A. P. Loyd, E. Neale, Frank Penrose, R. H. Read, Hon. Walter Rothschild, Howard Saunders (*Treas.*), H. Seebohm, R. Bowdler Sharpe, E. Cavendish Taylor, J. T. Tristram-Valentine.

Guests : T. F. Althaus, J. S. Whitaker (of Palermo).

The Treasurer stated that, out of 200 Members of the British Ornithologists' Union resident in the United Kingdom, no fewer than 85 had joined and paid their subscriptions to the B. O. Club since the first intimation of its formation. He proposed two Bye-laws, which were adopted *nem. con.*

A letter received from Prof. Alphonse Milne-Edwards stated that his attention had been called by the Editor to the fact that the genera *Pelargopsis* and *Tachyornis*, as proposed by him, had been preoccupied; he therefore wished to propose for *Pelargopsis* the amended name of *Pelargocrex*, and for *Tachyornis* the amended name of *Belornis*.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe exhibited the type specimen of *Rallus plateni*, which had been lent to him by Professor W. Blasius. This fine Wood-Rail had been discovered by the well-known traveller Dr. Platen, at Rurukan in Minahasa, W. Celebes. It was singularly like *Aramides* in appearance and build, while the barring of the flanks recalled *Hypotænidia*. Its long bill proclaimed it to belong to the section of Rails which included *Gymnocrex*, *Aramides*, *Megacrex*, and *Habroptila*; but its closest ally was evidently the South-American *Aramides*, on which account Dr. Sharpe proposed to call the genus

Aramidopsis, gen. n.

Genus simile generi "*Aramides*" dicto, sed rostro longiore et graciliore, ad basin hallucem haud æquante, et sulco nasali longius producto distinguendum.

Typus est *Aramidopsis plateni* (Blasius).

The bill was very long and slender, and of nearly equal width the whole way, so that when measured at the base it was found to be less than the hind toe, whereas in *Aramides* the depth of the bill at base was about equal to the hind toe.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe also drew attention to the following new species of birds, which Mr. Hose had recently received from Mount Kalulong, in Sarawak, for which Dr. Sharpe proposed the following names:—

Turdinus kalulongæ, sp. n.

Similis *T. magnirostri*, sed pileo infuscato, gutture imo et præpectore toto cinereis minimè striolatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 6 poll., culm. 0·65, alæ 3·3, caudæ 2·8, tarsi 0·8.

Turdinus tephrops, sp. n.

Similis *T. sepiario*, sed pileo saturatè griseo haud dorso concolori, hypochondriis et subcaudalibus lætè cervinis, et gutture imo et præpectore cinereo striatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 5·2 poll., culm. 0·8, alæ 3·0, caudæ 1·55, tarsi 1·1.

Glaucidium borneense.

G. simile *G. brodiei* et *G. sylvatico,* sed ab ambobus fasciâ cervicali albâ distinguendum. Long. tot. 6·0 poll., culm. 0·55, alæ 3·65, caudæ 1·9, tarsi 0·8.

A further communication from Dr. Sharpe described a new species of *Spilornis* from Sarawak, with the following diagnosis:—

Spilornis raja, sp. n.

Similis *S. sulaensi,* sed fasciis albidis pectoralibus et abdominalibus, axillaribusque valde crebrioribus distinguendus. Long. tot. 18·5 poll., alæ 12·2, caudæ 7·0, tarsi 3·25.

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant gave an account of a successful expedition which he had made to Banffshire with Capt. Savile Reid, to obtain the nests of the Snow-Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) and the Dotterel (*Eudromias morinellus*). The probable locality of the breeding-places of these two species had been indicated to him by Mr. F. D. Godman, F.R.S., with such foresight that Mr. Ogilvie Grant had obtained the nests of both species on the first day of his expedition. The nests of these two rare species of British birds would be shortly exhibited in the series of naturally mounted groups at the British Museum.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a skin of the Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), apparently of a bird assuming summer plumage, from Chili, transmitted to him by Dr. R. A. Philippi, of Santiago, C.M.Z.S., and remarked that the occasional visits of this Phalarope to Chili had been already noted by Mr. Salvin (P. Z. S. 1883, p. 429).

Mr. Saunders (‘Manual,’ p. 551) had stated that the Red-necked Phalarope (*P. hyperboreus*) also occurred in Chili, but Mr. Sclater had not been able to find any authority for this, though Wilson's Phalarope of N. America (*P. wilsoni*) was an occasional visitor to Chili and Patagonia (see Seebohm, ‘Plovers,’ p. 343, and Berkeley James's ‘New List of Chilian Birds,’ p. 11).

Mr. Sclater also exhibited a skin of a rare Pigeon (*Geophaps plumifera*) [*cf.* Gould, ‘Birds of Australia,’ v. pl. 69] from Northern Queensland, one of ten which had been received alive at the Zoological Gardens, Antwerp. Mr. Gould's type of the species was for many years unique, but more recently several specimens had been obtained in North-western Australia by the late Mr. T. H. Bowyer-Bower, and were now in the British Museum.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD exhibited specimens of three species of *Chasiempis* from the Sandwich Islands. Of all of these species he had received examples of young and old birds from Mr. Henry Palmer. Mr. Rothschild pointed out that, while most of the genera of Sandwich Island birds were distributed all over the archipelago, the genus *Chasiempis* was confined to the islands of Kauai, Hawaii, and Oahu. While Mr. Sclater had maintained that there was only one species of *Chasiempis* in the Sandwich Islands, Dr. Stejneger had recognized no less than five different forms, this result being attained by separating the rufous-rumped birds, which were the young ones, from the white-rumped birds, which were the adults. Mr. Rothschild pointed out that there were three distinct species, as follows:—

Chasiempis sclateri, of Ridgway, from Kauai; *C. ridgwayi*, Stejneger, from Hawaii; and *C. sandwichensis* (Gmelin), from Oahu.

Mr. ROTHSCHILD also exhibited and described the following species:—

LOXOPS WOLSTENHOLMEI, sp. nov.

This little species can be at once distinguished from *L. coccinea* (Gm.), and *L. ochracea*, Rothsch., by its smaller size and the dull cinnabar-red of the upper surface. The rump and belly are also cinnabar, but strongly flushed with orange. Wings and tail brown, each feather bordered on the outer edge with buffy red. Wing 2·2 inches, tail 1·7.

Hab. Island of Oahu, Sandwich group.

Named after Henry Palmer's companion, who shot the only specimen at present known.

VIRIDONIA MACULATA (Cab.).

This bird was originally described by Professor Cabanis from an adult female and an immature male from Oahu, and placed in the genus *Himatione* (Mus. Hein. i. p. 100, note, 1851).

A large series of this rare species had been sent in April last by Henry Palmer from Oahu, which proved that the bird was not a true *Himatione*, but formed the second species of the genus *Viridonia* (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., July 1892, p. 112).

Adult male. Upper surface bright olive-green; forehead, throat, and under surface bright golden yellow, less bright on the under surface, and fading almost to white at the vent. Flanks slightly mottled with olive-green.

Hab. Island of Oahu, in thick jungle high on the mountains.

ANOUS HAWAIIENSIS, sp. nov.

This species, which is confined to the Hawaiian group of islands, differs from its nearest congener *A. melanogenys*, Gray, in that the grey colour, instead of being confined to the crown of the head, is spread over the neck and interscapular region. The tail and rump also, instead of being black, are pale grey. Under surface of neck also slightly washed with grey, instead of being uniform black as in *A. melanogenys.* The wing in the new species seems to be shorter, varying from 0·5 to 0·75 inch. The beak is slightly stouter and a little less pointed.

Types in Mus. W. Rothschild and in Brit. Mus.

ŒSTRELATA NIGRIPENNIS, sp. nov.

Œ. *defilippianæ*, Gigl. et Salvad., affinis, sed rostro multo breviore et robustiore, ad basin latiore; margine alarum subtus latiore, nigricanti-griseo; remige externo subtus (parte exposita) in pogonio interno fere omnino nigro, reliquis parte proxima tantum alba; axillaribus albis. Long. tot. circa 12 poll., al. 8·7, caud. rectr. med. 4·1, rectr. later. 3·25, rostri a rictu 1·25, tars. 1·15, dig. med. et int. 1·35, dig. ext. 1·1. (Type in Mus. W. Rothschild.)

Hab. Kermadec Islands.

Obs. This species belongs to the "*Œ. cooki* (Gray)" section of the genus *Œstrelata,* of which *Œ. defilippiana* is also a member. It differs from all its congeners in having a short, stout, wide bill, and in the almost total absence of white on the inner webs of the outer primary beneath, the under wing-coverts, with the exception of a rather wide margin, being white as well as the axillary feathers.

THALASSOGERON SALVINI, sp. nov.

Similis *Th. cauto,* sed rostro multo minore, ad basin minus elevato, plumbescente nec albido, tarsis et digitis brevioribus quoque diagnoscendus.

♀ mari similis.

Hab. New Zealand.

This is the "*Diomedea cauta*" of Buller and other writers on New Zealand birds. On comparing my series of specimens with one of Gould's types of *T. cautus* in the British Museum, the differences above pointed out are apparent.

In coloration this species is apparently greyer on the head and neck, the dark loral mark in front of the eye being very conspicuous. This species, as well as *T. cautus,* belong to Mr. Ridgway's genus *Thalassogeron,* the sides of the culminicorn being nearly parallel to the base and separated from the latericorn by an interval of soft skin.

DIOMEDEA BULLERI, sp. nov.

Thalassogeronti culminato quoad colores similis, sed rostro pallidiore, culmine ad basin latiore, lateribus attingente, culmine omnino flavo; alis subtus niveis.

Hab. New Zealand.

Type in Mus. W. Rothschild.

This is the "*Diomedea culminata*" of Buller and other New Zealand writers, but it differs materially from the true *Thalassogeron culminatus* (Gould), a species of Ridgway's genus *Thalassogeron,* the base of the culminicorn being separated by an interval of soft skin from the latericorn. In this respect the present species is somewhat intermediate between *Diomedea* and *Thalassogeron,* but the base of the culminicorn, though not so well developed, distinctly spreads and has a well-defined posterior margin.

It is just possible that this species may prove to be *Diomedea gilliana* of Coues, from an unknown locality, but the bill is differently coloured, and the under wing-coverts are white instead of the same colour as the upper surface.

These three species of *Procellariidæ* in my collection were pointed out to me as new by Mr. Osbert Salvin, who kindly confirmed the diagnoses.

The Members then adjourned to the large room at the Frascati Restaurant, where Mr. Rothschild exhibited specimens of all the new species described by him at the Meeting, and called attention to other rare birds from his collection. Among these were examples of *Phalacrocorax featherstoni* of Buller, of which a living example and many skins were shown, as well as skins of *Tetraophasis sechenyi* and *Palæornis salvadorii.*

Mr. Rothschild likewise exhibited living specimens of the various species of *Apteryx*, 9 in number, viz. :—

2 *Apteryx mantelli,* ♂ ♀.
2 „ *lawryi,* ♂ ♀.
2 „ *oweni,* ♂ ♀.
2 „ *haasti,* ♂ ♀.
1 „ *occidentalis,* ♀.

The following paper was then read, and was illustrated by the exhibition of nearly 100 specimens of *Apteryges* :—

“ Notes on the Genus *Apteryx.*

By the Hon. Walter Rothschild.

“ Since my controversy with Mr. H. O. Forbes in the pages of the ‘ Annals and Magazine of Natural History,’ on the subject of *Apteryx haasti,* I have gone exhaustively into the history of the genus *Apteryx,* and I hope soon to publish a complete Monograph on the subject.

“ Possessing, however, a large series of skins, and examples of no less than five species in a living state, I thought it would be interesting to the Club to exhibit this series of skins, along with the living specimens, and I add a few remarks on the geographical distribution and synonymy of this very strange family of birds.

"Hitherto five species of *Apteryx* have been described and accepted, viz.:—

"*Apteryx australis*, Shaw.
A. mantelli, Bartlett (syn. *A. bulleri*, Sharpe).
A. maximus, Verreaux.
A. oweni, Gould.
A. haasti, Potts.

"On these five species there have been many discussions, especially with regard to *A. mantelli*, *A. haasti*, and *A. maximus*.

"As regards *A. mantelli*, I can only point out that Dr. Otto Finsch maintained that Mr. Bartlett's diagnosis was founded on a false basis, and he, moreover, believed that the North-Island *Apteryx* was barely worthy of subspecific rank. Sir Walter Buller, however, and all other ornithologists who have expressed any opinion on the subject, maintain, and I am convinced rightly, that the North-Island bird is distinct from *A. australis*. But Sir Walter Buller unfortunately misled Dr. Sharpe into re-naming the North-Island bird by omitting to state that, however faint were the characters which Bartlett used to diagnose his species, he most emphatically stated (P. Z. S. 1850, p. 276) that all the specimens of his *A. mantelli* came from the *North* Island. This fact, I think, establishes without a doubt the priority of Mr. Bartlett's name of *Apteryx mantelli*.

"By many people it has been maintained that *Apteryx haasti* is a natural hybrid between *A. australis* and *A. oweni*. This I believe to be entirely erroneous, because, although at Okarita, where the original specimens of *A. haasti* were obtained, *A. australis* and *A. oweni* were at one time found, the localities whence I have obtained *A. haasti* in some numbers during the last few years are quite uninhabited by the other species. *A. haasti* at the present time inhabits the crater-like valleys between the highlands of the southern and central mountain-chains in the South Island; but it is also found in isolated places in the King-country in the North Island.

"*Apteryx australis* was formerly abundant all over the lower scrub-covered districts of the South Island, but is now almost exclusively confined to the Dusky-Bay region.

"*Apteryx maximus* is almost a fictitious species, though I am inclined to agree with Prof. Hutton that it was only an overgrown *A. haasti.* The name was published originally, without a description, by Bonaparte in the 'Comptes Rendus,' xliii. p. 841, taken from an unpublished manuscript of Jules Verreaux, and then Prof. Hutton described a foot in his 'Catalogue of the Birds of New Zealand' and ascribed it to this species. Both references, however, distinctly refer to a bird from the *South Island.* In 1890, Sir Walter Buller finally announced that he had discovered the true *A. maximus* on Stewart Island, and I am fortunate in possessing the entire series from his collection; but I most emphatically say that this species cannot be *A. maximus* of Verreaux, and therefore I have much pleasure in naming it *Apteryx lawryi,* after Sir W. Lawry Buller.

"Sir W. Buller fully described this bird before the Wellington Scientific Society. All that I shall add is, therefore, that though the differences between it and *A. australis* are very slight, they are apparently constant, owing, no doubt, to the isolation of the species.

"*Apteryx oweni* is found exclusively on the east coast of the South Island, and there is nothing particular to be said regarding this species.

"On the west coast of the South and North Islands, from one end to the other, occurs, however, a grey *Apteryx,* which has hitherto been confounded with the typical *A. oweni.* This form differs from *A. oweni* in its much larger size (being quite as big as *A. australis*), in its comparatively very small bill, and in the heavy black bars on the feathers. I propose to call this *Apteryx occidentalis,* a subspecies of *A. oweni.*

"So far I consider we shall be justified in accepting the following as a complete synopsis of the species of *Apteryx* as at present known :—

"*A. australis,* Shaw. South Island.
A. lawryi, sp. nov. Stewart Island.
A. mantelli, Bartl. North Island.
A. oweni, Gould. East coast, South Island.
A. oweni occidentalis, subsp. n. North Island, and west coast, South Island.
A. haasti, Potts. Central South Island and west of the North Island.
A. maximus, Verr. (sp. dub.). South Island."

The next Meeting of the Club will be held about October 18th, but due notice will be sent to the Members.

An Index and Titlepage to the first volume of the 'Bulletin' is in preparation, and will be fowarded to each Member when ready.

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.* R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.* HOWARD SAUNDERS, *Sec. & Treas.*

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

ON OPENING THE SECOND SESSION

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(OCTOBER 18, 1893.)

I PROPOSE to open the Second Session of the B. O. C. by offering a few remarks on recent events in the ornithological world. Before doing so, however, I cannot avoid alluding to a sad loss that we have recently experienced. Since our last meeting our list of Members has become one less by the death of Mr. John Tristram Tristram-Valentine, who had been an active Member of the Club since its foundation and had charmed us all by his genial and pleasing company. Tristram-Valentine, although he contributed but little to the scientific literature of Ornithology, had done much to popularize our science by articles in the 'Saturday Review' and in other periodicals.

Turning now to the leading events in Ornithology, I will first call attention to the approaching completion of the great 'Catalogue of Birds' founded on the unrivalled collection of specimens in our National Museum at South Kensington. Twenty-one volumes of this most important work are, I need hardly remind you, already published. As we are informed in the recent Parliamentary Report of the British Museum, Vol. xxii. (Game Birds) by Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant, Vol. xxiii. (Rails, Cranes, and Bustards) and Vol. xxiv. (Waders) by Dr. R. B. Sharpe, and Vol. xxv. (Gulls and Petrels) by Mr. H. Saunders and Mr. O. Salvin, are now in preparation.

We may hope, therefore, in the course of another year to see the "beginning of the end" of the Catalogue. I need hardly allude to the importance of a full general index to conclude the work, but we may be quite sure that Dr. Günther has already considered this subject.

In other branches of ornithological literature the most pleasing novelty that has appeared since the termination of our last session is, I think, the first part of Mr. Rothschild's work on the 'Avifauna of Laysan.' A short time ago the very existence of Laysan and its neighbouring islands was hardly known to us. Mr. Rothschild's active collector has produced from these specks of rock a mass of material sufficient to fill a large quarto volume under Mr. Rothschild's elaborate treatment. This serves to prove, if further evidence were necessary, the importance of "island-life" and to show that no islet, however small and however remote, should be allowed to escape the minute investigation of the inquiring naturalist. On a cognate subject I may express a hope that the work of Messrs. Scott-Wilson and Evans on the 'Birds of the Hawaiian Archipelago' will shortly be brought to a conclusion. When this is done our knowledge of the North-Pacific Avifauna may be fairly supposed to have made a very considerable advance.

Another work long expected, Mr. Dresser's volume upon the Rollers, is now, I see, announced for immediate publication, while we may hope that the issue of Mr. Seebohm's elaborate 'Monograph of the Thrushes' will not be long delayed. It is a pity to withhold from publication such a splendid series of well-drawn illustrations of a favourite group of birds.

As regards ornithological travellers, of which I am glad to say we have always a good supply in the ranks of the B. O. U., Mr. Whitehead has recently departed on a new voyage of discovery to the East, and, as we are informed, will begin his work in Luzon and other islands in the Philippine group. Mr. O. V. Aplin has returned to this country after a successful expedition to Uruguay, and is now engaged in preparing an account of his results for publication in 'The Ibis.'

Mr. J. G. Millais has been exploring the further recesses of Mashonaland in search of the White Rhinoceros, but has doubtless not entirely neglected his favourite Birds. Mr. J. D. de La Touche, of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, has returned to Amoy, but, as he writes to me, is meditating an expedition to Takow in Formosa, where he will no doubt obtain adequate results. Mr. C. Hose has returned to his old quarters on the Baram River, accompanied by his brother, who will devote himself entirely to the further exploration of the mountains of this part of Borneo. To the southern part of the same island our excellent friend and correspondent Mr. Büttikofer, of the Leyden Museum, is now on the point of departure. It is evident, therefore, that good additions to our knowledge of the Ornithology of Borneo are likely to be made. Mr. C. W. Campbell, of the Chinese Consular Service, has returned to Corea, where there is still much work to be done in Natural History. From Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., whose headquarters are at Zomba, British Central Africa, I have lately received two large collections of birds, formed by Mr. Alexander Whyte, F.Z.S. Captain Shelley has kindly undertaken the working out of this series, which numbers 1033 specimens referable to 205 species. Amongst these not less than 9 are new to science. Captain Shelley's paper is already in type, and will be published in the first number of 'The Ibis' for next year.

Oologists, of whom there are many in the ranks of the B. O. U., will be pleased to hear that much progress has lately been made with the arrangement of the vast series of birds' eggs in the British Museum, which has been conducted under Mr. Seebohm's superintendence, and that it is expected that the whole will be shortly in working-order and accessible to students. The second cabinet of British birds' eggs was placed in the British Gallery in August last, so that an excellent series of these beautiful and interesting objects is now accessible to the public.

It may interest the Members of the B. O. C. to learn that, being on the Continent in the last week of September this year, I gladly embraced the long-wished-for opportunity of attending the Anniversary Meeting of the "Allgemeine Deutsche ornithologische Gesellschaft," which commenced at Cassel on the 23rd of that month. I need hardly say that I met with a most friendly reception. Our much esteemed Honorary Member, Graf von Berlepsch, was in the chair, and I had the pleasure of passing several days in company with him, Dr. Reichenow, Herr Nehrkorn, Herr Schalow, Herr Matchie, and other well-known German naturalists. The most important point of discussion was the future of the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' which, as we all know, has been edited for more than forty years by Dr. J. Cabanis. Many interesting specimens of birds and eggs were also exhibited, and the question of a new Catalogue of German Birds was discussed.

Lastly, in concluding these remarks, I may venture to call attention to our own 'List of British Birds.' It is now ten years since this useful Catalogue was prepared and published. After ten years' increase of our knowledge of the subject, it is evident that certain modifications in nomenclature and alterations and additions to the List have become necessary, and I think that the question of the best mode of preparation of a second edition of 'The Ibis List of British Birds' should before long be taken into consideration.

P. L. S.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D.

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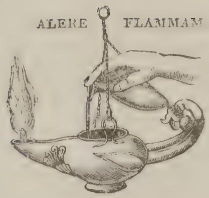

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PREFACE.

THE following paper, written by Mr. EDWARD DEGEN, and read before the inaugural meeting of the Club on the 5th of October, 1892, is now presented to the Members as the second volume of the 'Bulletin.'

In order that the value of this important contribution should not be impaired owing to the author's absence in Melbourne, I have invoked the assistance of Mr. W. P. Pycraft, who is engaged on researches of the same class of subjects and who has kindly edited the paper. The expenses of publishing this volume have, on Dr. Sclater's suggestion, been most liberally defrayed by Mr. J. P. Gassiot, F.Z.S.

R. BOWDLER SHARPE,
Editor.

INTRODUCTION.

Having now fulfilled a most agreeable task, I submit Mr. Degen's paper to my brother ornithologists as a most suggestive and helpful contribution to a by no means unimportant subject. That the two apparently insignificant feathers stowed away in the carpal region of the bird's wing should really be missing links of no small value, is a fact which I feel sure time will prove, and Mr. Degen is to be congratulated on having been the first to chronicle their existence.

Mingled with the unfeigned pleasure which the task of editing has afforded me, there runs a strain of melancholy in the reflection that, but for an over-anxious fear lest I should be publishing a matter of trivial interest, I myself should have mentioned the existence of these feathers some months before Mr. Degen's paper was read; and the author has kindly given me credit for this discovery (p. xviii). The loss, however, is mine, and ornithological science is the gainer, for Mr. Degen has not only graphically described the topography of the carpal region in general, and these feathers in particular, but he has most skilfully marshalled an array of useful facts, out of which he has contrived to construct for us an ideal Archæornithic wing, which cannot fail to command attention from all who are seriously interested in this subject. I must beg to be allowed here, however, to say that, for my own part, I do not altogether accept the conclusions which the author has arrived at; but on this subject I will say nothing more for the present.

I have abstained from comment throughout the paper as much as possible, partly for the reason that I do not wish either to overburden the essay with footnotes, or to distract attention from the main theme, and partly because I have in hand what I trust will prove an exhaustive account of the whole pterylography of the bird's wing, in which it is hoped that, amongst other things, the mystery of mysteries,—aquintocubitalism,—will be solved. It remains, therefore, only to say that all side-issues arising out of the present paper will be treated of thoroughly in my coming contribution, which has been aided materially by Mr. Degen's work.

W. P. PYCRAFT.

Dept. Comparative Anatomy,
University Museum, Oxford.
June 20, 1894.

ON SOME OF THE MAIN FEATURES IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE BIRD'S WING.

BY

EDWARD DEGEN.

(With Notes by W. P. Pycraft, M.B.O.U., Assistant to the Linacre Professor of Comparative Anatomy, Oxford.)

The close attention which has been paid during recent years to the study of the Pterylography of Birds shows that considerable importance is attached to the character and arrangement of the plumage as a factor in the classification of the Class *Aves*. Instead of regarding the feathering of the bird's body as a mass of plumes arranged haphazard and without significance, it has been found by gradual study and examination that a perfect order and sequence of arrangement is discernible, and ornithologists have not disdained to employ the distribution of the feather-tracts, the presence or absence of powder-down patches, the arrangement of the coverts and the quills, &c., as aids to arriving at a natural classification of Birds.

The full recognition of the importance of Pterylography as a means towards classification commenced with the work of the great Nitzsch. It must be remembered, however, that Nitzsch chiefly directed his attention to the distribution of the feather-tracts, and did not treat of the relation of the quills and the wing-coverts in any great detail. This subject was elaborated by Sundevall; and in more recent days the wings of birds have formed the objects of study of many well-known anatomists. A new interest, however, was imparted to the subject when the late Mr. R. S. Wray published his celebrated paper "On some Points in the Morphology of the Wings of Birds" in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London' for 1887. In this paper Mr. Wray has given an historical sketch which must be read by every inquirer into the development of the study and importance of Pterylography. Wray's work is indisputably the best on this subject up to the present time; but it is far from being exhaustive, and there are many points unexplained, though not wholly overlooked, by the lamented author, who would have undoubtedly pushed his studies further had not his career been cut short by death.

Mr. Goodchild's paper on the "Cubital Coverts of the Euornithes in relation to Taxonomy," published in the 'Proceedings of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh' for 1890–91 (vol. x.), has also proved a useful contribution to our knowledge of the subject, and he especially endeavours to supplement Wray's work as regards the peculiar break in the outline of the bird's wing, caused by the absence of the fifth cubital remex.

I shall have occasion in the course of the present paper to refer to the labours of my predecessors in the field of Pterylography, and especially I must mention how much I have been indebted to the excellent work which has been done by Mr. W. P. Pycraft, whose paper, entitled "A Contribution to the Pterylography of Birds' Wings," published in the 'Transactions of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society,' vol. ii. (1890), is again a great advance in our knowledge of the subject, and brings it once more up to date. Mr. Pycraft has supplemented Mr. Wray's work in many important particulars, and I have to acknowledge the assistance which I have received from his valuable essay.

Finally, I may state that the occasion of my taking up this branch of study was the interest which was manifested in Pterylography by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, who pointed out to me certain peculiarities in the wings of the *Charadriidæ* which he could not comprehend, and begged me to look into the subject. In the course of time I became quite as much interested in the matter as was my kind friend Dr. Sharpe, and, pursuing my studies further and further, I ultimately arrived at the conclusions set forth in the present paper. The particular feather which puzzled Dr. Sharpe was an apparent "median" covert in the Snipes (*Gallinago*), the peculiar pattern of which is alluded to below. It is situated on that portion of the wing which is commonly called the "wrist" (fig. 1, C.c., p. xi), and, so far as the material provided by Dr. Sharpe discloses, it is always present. *In no form of bird that I have examined hitherto has it been absent* *.

This feather further forms the *first* of a series of coverts, and is always shorter than those succeeding it. For comparison I would point out that it is equivalent to the first of the *major* coverts of the digitals or primaries—that is to say that, taking the primary coverts in their order, and commencing from the distal end of the wing, we find that they begin with a short one also.

The feather which is under consideration may be said to divide the wing characteristically into two parts, answering to the two principal anatomical components of the fore-arm, viz. the *manus* and the *antibrachium* respectively. Our feather is sometimes conspicuously indicated in the bird's wing, as, for instance, in the Snipes (*Gallinago*), where it is plainly tipped with white like the major coverts.

In the majority of birds, so far as I see, the uniformity in general coloration of the wing-coverts lends no special opportunity for the recognition of the special feather in question;

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* [Speaking generally this would appear to be the case, but we must be prepared to find exceptions, and these apparently occur in the *Pici* and *Upupidæ*. In these birds, so far as I have yet been able to discover, this feather appears to be absent; whether or not this is actually the case, depends upon the identity of a feather here present which apparently represents one of the two feathers to be described (p. x). On the whole, this feather (reduced to a semiplume in the *Pici*, and well developed and pennaceous in the *Upupidæ*) justifies the view that it represents *not* the feather to which the footnote refers ("carpal covert," p. xviii), but the "carpal remex" (p. x). Till this point is cleared up the fixity of the "carpal covert" must be considered subject to exceptions.

I hope to discuss this matter more fully, together with some interesting modifications, in a forthcoming paper.—W. P. P.]

but I believe it to be always present, and to be discoverable on careful investigation.

This feather seems at first sight to be supernumerary, as there is no remex to which it appears to belong. Nevertheless it is always accompanied by a small feather, situated beneath it, as has already been pointed out by Mr. Wray, whose detecting eye it did not escape. The former of these two feathers, however, he erroneously referred to the second series of coverts, viz. the "median," as it is frequently placed, in fact in certain families *always*, on the proximal side of the first metacarpal flight-feather. He concluded that it belonged to the series of "median" coverts, where it assumed the function of a "major" covert.

The constant presence, however, of an accessory feather * (generally in a vestigial or plumaceous condition) induced me to trace its origin and value, as being the only means of ascertaining any reliable data as to the value of the "covert" in question.

At first sight this "covert"-feather presents all the characteristics of a true major covert, and this opinion is confirmed by its texture and coloration. I have been fortunate enough to examine some fresh specimens of birds in a state of moult, and there I have found this "covert" behaving in exactly the same manner and following the line of the other "major" coverts.

I had before me a moulting specimen of a Jay, and here the "covert" made its appearance in the same manner and

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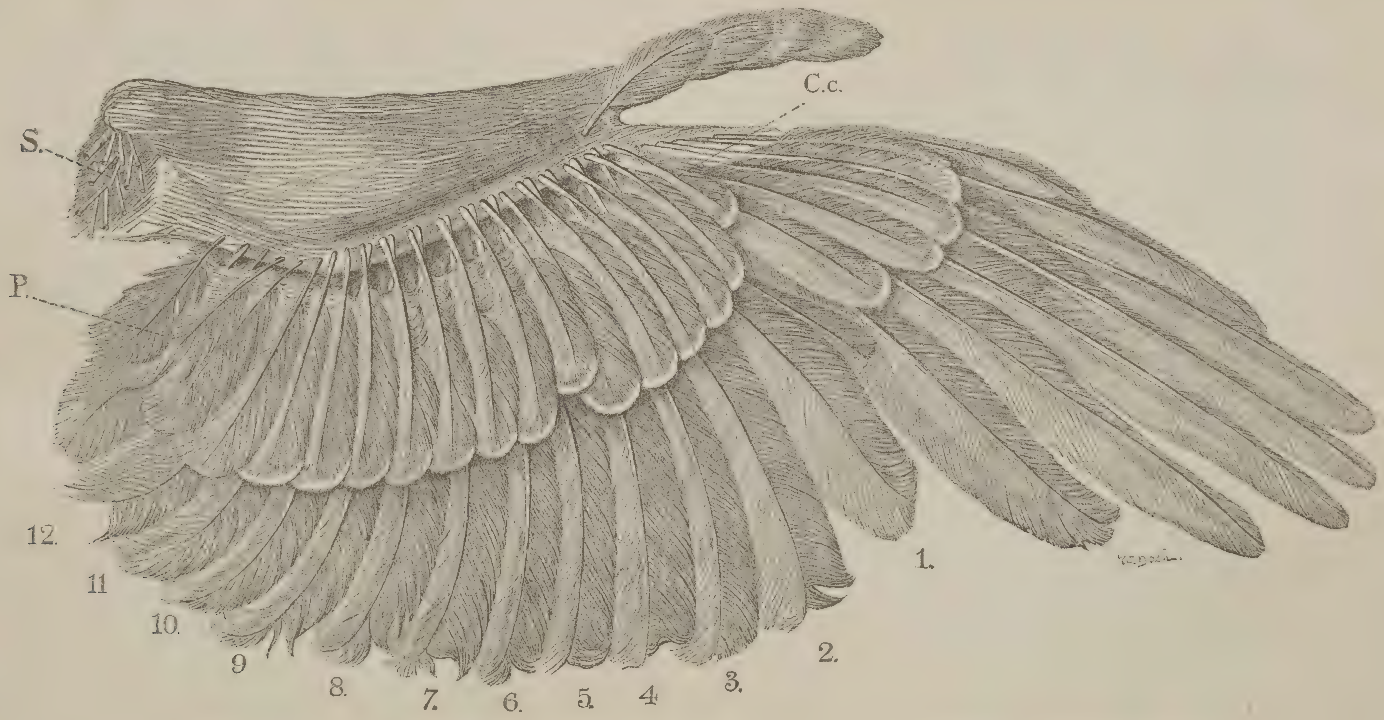
* [Apparently this feather is much more frequently absent than is the "covert." It will probably be found to be wanting in all Passeriformes, possibly in many of the Coraciiformes, and some Cuculiformes, e. g. *Turacus persa*. There seems little doubt but that it is absent in *Psophia crepitans*, *Dicholophus cristatus*, *Opisthocomus cristatus*, *Leptoptilus javanicus*, and *Plotus anhinga*.

Space, and the incomplete stage of my researches, renders all reference to variations from the normal inadvisable here.

The only examples of the species here enumerated that I have been enabled to examine in a "fresh" condition, in this connection, are *Opisthocomus cristatus* and *Leptoptilus javanicus*, and for this boon I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Sclater.—W. P. P.]

Fig. 1.

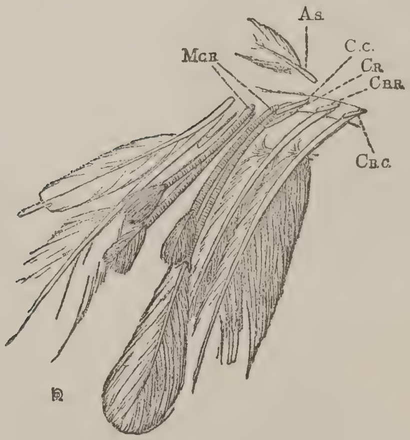


Extended right wing of a Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter nisus*). Dorsal view, showing the disposition of the remiges and major coverts.

at the same instant as the other "major" coverts of the *cubitus,* it being the last to appear. The moult was taking place simultaneously with that of the remiges, the order commencing, from within outwards, with the fourth or fifth cubital remex. The metacarpal remiges in this Jay and their respective coverts were just completely moulted, and the fact that our disputed "covert" was not included in their moult, but was following the same course as the other cubital coverts, is good *primâ facie* evidence that it belongs naturally to the latter series.

Confirmatory evidence, if required, will be seen in the accompanying figure, which illustrates the moulting of the metacarpal remiges and their coverts in the left wing of a Sparrow-Hawk; here the moult is simultaneous, but it has not yet commenced with the cubital remiges or their coverts,

Fig. 2.



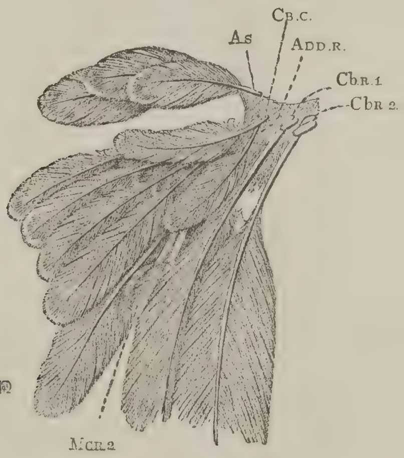
Portion of the left wing of a Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter nisus*), showing the moulting condition of the 1st and 2nd metacarpal remiges. The carpal covert and its remex have been cut short.

A.s. Ala spuria. C.c. Carpal covert. C.r. Carpal remex. Cb.r. Cubital remex. Cb.c. Cubital covert. Mc.r. Metacarpal remex.

and I found that the disputed "covert," with its accessory plume, had not partaken of the metacarpal moult, but, like the cubital coverts, were still *old* feathers (fig. 2).

In the right wing of the same bird (fig. 3) the moulting of the metacarpals was a little further advanced. The new coverts were those of an adult bird, with no pale tip. The cubitals, which had not commenced to moult, had all of them the pale rusty tip to the feather which is characteristic of the immature Sparrow-Hawk; and here again our disputed "covert" partook of the colour of the other cubitals, and had the same rusty tip—further evidence that it belonged to the same series.

Fig. 3.



Right wing of same specimen as fig. 2. The moulting of the 1st and 2nd metacarpal remiges has proceeded a stage further. The carpal covert and remex are intact.

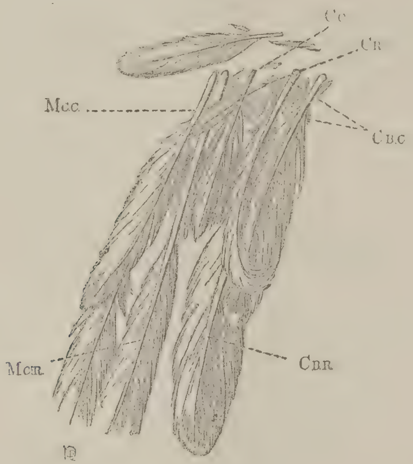
For the purpose of rendering comparison easier the wing has been drawn reversed.

A.s. Ala spuria. Add.r. Accessory remex = carpal remex. Cb.c. Carpal covert. Cb.r. 1 & 2. Cubital remex 1 & 2. Mc.r. 2. Metacarpal remex 2.

It must be recognized that notwithstanding the similarity in colour or texture which would ally the disputed "covert" with either of the series of cubital coverts, it would be rash to jump at this conclusion off-hand, especially when it is remembered that it is not unfrequently found in closer proximity to the metacarpals than the cubitals. A certain independency of station might not unreasonably be accorded to it, if its position in the wing of the Duck be noticed.

In the *Anatidæ* the disputed "covert" is placed midway between the metacarpals and the cubitals (fig. 4).

Fig. 4.



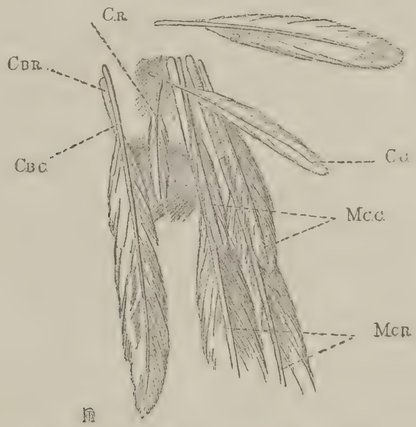
Carpal region of the left wing of a Wild Duck (*Anas boscas*), showing the carpal covert and accessory remex (carpal remex) lying in the diastema between the metacarpal and cubital remiges.

C.c. Carpal covert. C.r. Carpal remex. Cb.c. Cubital coverts. Cb.r. Cubital remiges. Mc.r. Metacarpal remiges. Mc.c. Metacarpal coverts.

The space between these two series of feathers is greater in the Ducks than in any other birds with which I am acquainted, and is far in excess of the interspace between any two of the cubital remiges. In the wing of *Dendrocygna*, which I have made the subject of my observations, the position of the "covert" is seen to perfection, though that of any Duck answers the purpose equally well. Here we find the "covert" resting on the metacarpus, leaving the carpus proper free from contact with any flight-feather. Its position is seen in the figure just referred to, and its independence from the 1st metacarpal is established.

It therefore became necessary to trace and identify this same "covert" in other families of Birds, and I quickly discovered several intermediate conditions of its location. In the Ptarmigan, for instance (fig. 5), it shows a tendency to associate itself with the 1st metacarpal remex. There is really no actual connection, and its position is sufficiently definite to preserve its independent individuality. This condition is therefore only a modification of the same that we saw above in the Duck.

Fig. 5.



Carpal region of the right wing of a Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*), showing the position of the carpal covert and remex. Letters as in previous figures.

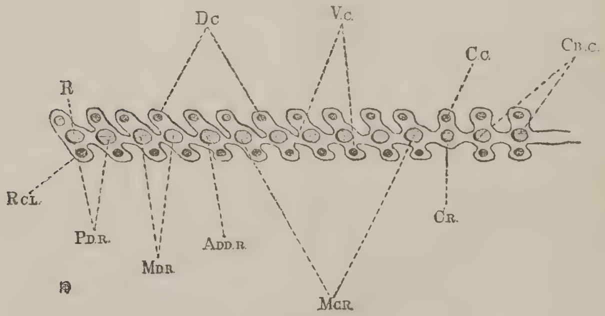
In justice to those observers who, like the late Mr. Wray, considered this "covert" to be intimately related to the 1st metacarpal remex, and referred it to the series of median coverts with the function of a major covert, I must honestly confess that at first sight this would seem to be the most feasible explanation. It seemed to me that the only satisfactory way of determining the question would be to clear up the problem of the relationship of the major coverts with their respective remiges on the *manus*.

Mr. Wray, in his paper before mentioned, gives a figure (pl. xxxii. figs. *a*, *b*) which represents a section through the feathers of a Duck's wing, in which every dorsal covert (coloured *yellow*) is connected by a membrane to the shaft of each consecutive flight-feather, lying *proximal* to it.

The accessory plume which we have spoken of above as "vestigial" was considered by Mr. Wray (and so figured by him) as the proper major covert of the 1st metacarpal remex. Our disputed "covert" having been included by him in the median series, thus disappears for the moment from our argument, which now deals with the major coverts only. Had not Mr. Wray thus accounted for the function of this vestigial plume, this 1st metacarpal remex must have gone without a covert at all.

Having had a suspicion that there might have been some misapprehension on the part of Mr. Wray as to the connection of the metacarpal remiges and their respective coverts, I next made experiments on sections of the wings of young Sparrows and Fowls under the microscope. This study clearly revealed to me a different correlation of the major coverts and the remiges in the metacarpo-digital portion of the wing. The microscopical sections (fig. 6), after correction,

Fig. 6.



Microscopical section of the wing of a young bird showing the relative positions of the coverts and remiges.

Add.r. Addigital remex. C.c. Carpal covert. C.r. Carpal remex. Mc.r. Metacarpal remex. Md.r. Middigital remex. Pd.r. Predigital remex. Rcl. Remicle. D.c. Dorsal coverts. V.c. Ventral coverts.

showed beyond any doubt that the major coverts, intersituated between the closely set quills, are placed *distally* to the remiges to which they belong. They are, in fact, enclosed by the same identical membrane, which serves as a common fold for each set (remex and major coverts).

The correctness of my contention as to the distal position of each major covert on the metacarpal remiges is confirmed by the moulting feathers of the female Sparrow-Hawk previously mentioned. There, as the figures (figs. 2 & 3, pp. xii & xiii) clearly show, the first, second, and third metacarpal remiges, together with their respective coverts, are in a graduated state of development. The vane of the first is in a semi-developed condition, and has its covert issuing from the same pocket or fold in the *ala membrana*, and reaching about half-way down the remex. In the second quill the major covert is comparatively longer, as it reaches to the same point, namely, the end of the horny envelope, though the quill itself is not so developed, as in the first remex. But in the third remex both the quill and its covert are scarcely developed, and are not only clearly enclosed in the same envelope, but the distal position of the covert is beyond doubt.

As regards the relation of the cubital remiges and their major coverts, my observations confirm the positions assigned to them in Mr. Wray's plate; but I must remark that in a young Sparrow I found the first cubital major covert not placed proximately to its remex, but situated longitudinally in the centre of the dorsum of the shaft of the remex, while all the following ones were distinctly inserted at the proximal side of the base of the quills. The major coverts of the metacarpals in the same stage of growth are placed distally to their respective remiges; and it would thus appear that the wrist-joint becomes the centrifugal point from which the coverts place themselves left and right, distally or proximally, as the portion of the wing is either metacarpo-digital or cubital (see fig. 6).

To return once more to our disputed "covert." I trust that it is now plain that from the variation in its position it can never be considered a metacarpal covert, and I propose in future to speak of it as *the carpal covert,* a term which I believe to be justified by its relation to the carpus. As regards its origin and significance I shall now proceed to explain myself further, and I shall endeavour to prove that my *carpal covert* belongs to the system of major cubital coverts, and that its attendant remex is in process of disappearing.

First as to the variation in the position of this *carpal covert.* It seems to me that there is a reason for this variation, and that an unquestionable solution for the displacement of this feather is to be found in the mechanical and statical functions to which the bird's wing is subjected, according to the amount of exertion required in connection with its flight or mode of living.

As Mr. Wray was satisfied that the *carpal covert* belonged to the median series, it is my duty to explain why I am convinced that it is a major cubital covert. For the purpose of determining whether this feather belongs to the major or median series of coverts, the ordinary routine of turning up row after row is not sufficient to arrive at a reliable conclusion on the subject. By the examination, however, of a number of moulting Passeres, where the dorsal series of major coverts have become sufficiently developed, it will be seen that the carpal covert makes its appearance along with the remainder of the *major* coverts on the *cubitus.* This was seen very distinctly in the case of a Blue Titmouse (*Parus cæruleus*), where the major coverts of the metacarpus had not yet moulted, and where there was no evidence of an immediate moult.

The cubital coverts, however, were clean moulted, and the carpal covert had followed suit. This statement has also been verified by Mr. Pycraft, who informs me that he had come to the conclusion that no other solution was possible than that this covert, which I have named the "carpal" covert, belonged to the major cubital series*.

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* [Mr. Degen might further have stated that I (at that time) believed this covert to be the major covert of the degenerate feather beneath it, which represented a remex. Recently my faith in this theory has been somewhat shaken, and I now find myself in an uneasy state of doubt.—W. P. P.]

I have likewise repeatedly observed the same arrangement in the wings of young sparrows and chickens.

Having thus established the value of the *carpal covert* as that of a true *major* covert, it becomes necessary to inquire further into its frequently abnormal position, for it is sometimes ultimately attached to the proximal side of the 1st metacarpal remex, as already mentioned. We have seen, however, by the test of microscopical examination, that on the *metacarpus* the metacarpal coverts grow distally to their respective remiges. Hence it follows that the 1st metacarpal remex is not without its own major covert, as Mr. Wray imagined, although the *carpal covert* often assumes the position of a true *major* covert to the 1st metacarpal remex, especially when it is found closely attached to the latter.

My next step was to inquire into the practical utility and origin of the *carpal* covert. An analogous case of suppression seemed to me to exist in the 5th cubital remex, which is absent in several groups of birds, a phenomenon for which no satisfactory explanation has been offered up to the present time. To this the name of "aquincubitalism" * has been given and accepted, in contradistinction to "quincubitalism," the condition when the 5th cubital remex is *always present.* Like Mr. Wray, I have also never found a single trace of a 5th remex in a vestigial form, though I fully believe in the possibility of such a discovery, when complete material is at hand for examination †.

In aquintocubitalism the presence of both an upper and a lower wing-covert, together with the relative distance between the 4th and 6th, leaves not the slightest doubt as to the 5th remex being missing. The carpal covert, accompanied as it is by a feather which lies beneath it, and which varies from a vestigial "plume" in one group of birds to a well-developed "penna" in another, appears to present at first sight a parallel analogy to aquintocubitalism. But the variation in the texture of the underlying feather, from a plumaceous to a pennaceous state, in the case of the carpal covert, suggests a different theory as to its value, especially as the underlying feather referred to lies on the dorsum of the *ala membrana,* instead of on the ventral side of the latter, as is the case in the aquintocubital ventral major covert. This was fully confirmed by the examination of a Great Black-backed Gull in a state of moult; and it is evident that in this family the underlying feather above alluded to, which is so generally *vestigial,* becomes a fully developed and truly *pennaceous* feather, exceeding both in length and strength the *carpal covert* itself. Another important fact in the case of the Black-backed Gull (and one which, in my opinion, is quite decisive as to the value of the lower of the two carpal feathers) was that both the carpal covert and its pennaceous remex were moulting under exactly the same conditions as the two preceding metacarpals with their coverts, and were behaving in precisely the same manner. There can be no doubt, therefore, as to the origin of the *carpal covert,* and it must be looked upon as a normal *upper major covert,* of which the remex has either become reduced to a vestigial plume or exists only as a dwarfed pennaceous feather.

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* Dr. Gadow in Bronn's 'Thier-Reichs,' Aves, anatomische Theil, p. 557, writes "aquin*to*-" and "quin*to*cubital," which is perhaps preferable.

† [Up to the present time the mystery of "aquintocubitalism" remains unsolved. Whether the investigation upon which I am now engaged will lead to anything remains to be seen, but just now I am rather sanguine of success; suffice it to say, I do not think it will ever be found in a "vestigial condition."—W. P. P.]

The suppression of the remex in the case of the 5th cubital is patent, while the suppression of the remex on the wrist-joint (still, as we have seen, in a transition stage of annihilation) is not so evident. Being certain in my own mind as to the accuracy of the facts disclosed, it occurred to me that further analogies, based upon similar principles, might be traced in following up the series and divisions of the fore limb of the bird. In this attempt I have been greatly assisted by the accurate and very forcible descriptions given by Mr. W. P. Pycraft in his paper read before the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, and printed in their Transactions, vol. ii. pt. 3 (1890). Here he corrects the erroneous views of many authors on the subject of the so-called tertiaries and the humerals (=the *parapteron* of Nitzsch) (see fig. 1, p. xi). In the paper mentioned, Mr. Pycraft very justly doubts the correctness of the terminology applied to the set of feathers variously called "tertiaries" or "tertials," and he proposes to call them "inner secondaries." According to his deductions from other writers on the same subject, the feathers forming the parapteron have apparently no other purpose than to connect the gap between the cubitals and the scapulars. To me it seems that the term *parapteron,* as applied by Nitzsch, should be retained, inasmuch as this term conveys no confusion as to its meaning, and has the further advantage of leaving open the question of the serial value. To call them "tertiaries," as has been done by certain writers, suggests at once the idea that they are *of the same value* as the primaries or secondaries, which are flight-feathers of the first magnitude. Mr. Pycraft himself, in his subsequent descriptions of the parapteron, proves that its feathers belong to the series of *coverts,* being indeed a continuation of the major series of coverts of the cubitus, a conclusion which my own studies have amply verified.

Not only has this set, the feathers of which are serial with the metacarpal coverts, been derived from the upper part of the bird's body, being identical with the rest of the remigial covert-series, both dorsal and ventral, as Mr. Pycraft has proved to be the case, but there are two underlying rows as well. The upper series of the last-named can be traced with equal distinctness to be a continuation of the ventral major coverts. Lastly, in preparing a wing of a Demoiselle Crane, I discovered that this series of ventral major coverts on the parapteron is accompanied by a series of smaller coverts.

These turn their dorsal surface upwards, in the manner described by Mr. Pycraft, and they are nothing more than the *ventral median* coverts.

Thus we find a row of *dorsal* major coverts accompanied by their median coverts, as well as a row of *ventral* major coverts, also accompanied by *their* median coverts, and yet the whole series of remiges, which ought to be there, is absent. The series of feathers on the "parapteron" is developed under exactly the same conditions as both the "primary" and "secondary" series of remiges, excepting that in the parapteron the remiges are entirely wanting. This possibility of suppression of flight-feathers, while the coverts are retained, affords an explanation of the case of the 5th cubital remex and the correlation of the covert-feather on the wrist.

These notes have been put together at the request of my friend Dr. Sharpe on the eve of my departure to my new home in Australia, where I hope to find opportunity and time to further pursue my studies by following up the analogy on to the scapular tract, where I believe I have found similar traces of remigial suppression. I would propose the term "pterylomorphism" for the phenomenon of suppressed quills with the retention of their main coverts.

We must go back to a very remote parent stock for a full comprehension of the phenomenon, for the deduction follows from the fact that, save the primitive or vestigial remex on the wrist-joint, there are absolutely no positive traces of other vestigial flight-feathers where they are absent at the present day. The agency of their disappearance must therefore be a very deep-rooted one.

I will conclude with a few remarks on the origin of aquintocubitalism. To provide a plausible theory and explanation of this extraordinary, if not mysterious, phenomenon in some of the groups and families of Birds, it is necessary to revert once more to our carpal covert, so inconsequently placed, to all appearances, in the bird's wing. I believe it to be the key to the entire problem of the evolution and morphology of the fore limb of the bird.

As I have already mentioned in my introductory remarks to this paper, this feather is, apart from its colour in certain cases, readily distinguishable from the rest of the major coverts by its relative shortness, varying in degree, but never attaining the length of the rest of the series.

Sometimes, however, as shown in the case of the female Sparrow-Hawk before alluded to, the 6th *cubital covert* is shorter than the 5th or the 7th, between which it has its position (figs. 2, 3, pp. xii, xiii). This is not, as might be imagined, a mere variable or spontaneous occurrence, but is a constant feature in many families of birds, particularly those which are "aquintocubital." The same peculiarity obtains in the 9th cubital covert, at least in all the larger Waders, the Herons, and Cranes which I have examined up to the present. This tends to show that it is not a mere chance, but is the outcome of some definite arrangement.

These shorter *major coverts* (I am alluding to the dorsal ones only on the present occasion) *distinctly mark the commencement of a series.* The covert which I call the "carpal covert" commences the series 0 to the 5th and includes the latter—making a total of 6, which together form the *first* group of the cubitals or secondaries. The 6th marks the commencement of the *second* group, extending to the 8th and inclusive of the latter: this series consisting of 3 coverts. With the 9th commences the *third* group, which embraces the remainder of the cubital coverts belonging to the posterior portion of the ulna.

The better to comprehend my argument, these coverts are coloured red in the Plate accompanying this paper (figs. 1 & 3), showing their actual positions on the wing, and representing the condition and limits of all three series*.

Fig. 1 represents the wing of a bird, in which the 5th cubital remex is absent, but its natural position is indicated by a quill emphasized by transverse lines, so as to show the entire normal number of cubitals, which varies, according to Sundevall, from 9 to as many as 40 or even more.

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* An analogous case,—not insisted upon in the present paper, to avoid complication,—can be seen on the manus of every bird's wing, where the series of major coverts equally commence with a short covert either belonging to the 10th or 11th (remicle) flight-feather. In fig. 3 of the diagram, the actual position of the remiges may be seen in their relation to the respective bones which carry them.

The rudimentary quill on the carpus is marked 1′. It is found generally in a vestigial state of growth in the majority of birds, but, as we have seen, in some instances, such as in the Gulls, there is an actually developed quill-feather. This fact is indicated in the diagram by dotted lines, the quill being represented as of full value with the other remiges, as it undoubtedly was at one time.

The "carpal" covert in its true intermediary position is best seen in the Ducks. It has been cut short in the Plate (fig. 1) and coloured red.

The metacarpo-digitals, numbered 1–11, represent the normal number in most birds, including the "remicle," which is really the 11th metacarpo-digital remex (mostly rudimentary)*.

The quills of the *ala spuria* are marked A.s. in the diagram, to the number of 4 on the 1st phalanx of the 1st digit.

Fig. 2 in the Plate is intended to show merely the fore limb of the bird, with the component osseous parts slightly interspaced, for greater distinctness, at their respective joints.

The 2nd and 3rd metacarpal bones are intersected by dotted lines. In fully adult birds these bones are ankylosed at their epiphyses, but they are completely separate in the embryo.

In the Penguin, however, as may be seen in the specimen exhibited in the Index Series of the British Museum (Natural History), we find a very good example of an intermediate stage, where the ankylosis still indicates the original separation of the bones. It indicates, in fact, the original polydactyle plan in the manus of this class of Anamniotic Vertebrates.

The skeletiferous parts, as seen in fig. 3 of the Plate, are the same as those in fig. 2, but are divided up to the elbow-joint in a longitudinal section, so as to allow me space to demonstrate what I consider to have been the original position of the remiges.

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* There is great confusion as to the value of the so-called "remicle." Sometimes this is treated as a remex, sometimes as a covert. There ought to be no difficulty in this matter, for when it is an aborted *remex* it shows the fact by its imbrication, and when it is a *covert* it lies in a superior position and is distally imbricated by the adjoining covert.

The parts marked A and B represent digits II. and III. respectively, together with the scaphoid (radiale) and cuneiform (ulnare) bones at their proximal end. It is assumed that these digits were permanently free—not fused as in existing Birds; their distance apart has, of course, been greatly exaggerated in the figure, for the sake of demonstration. Such a manus is characteristic of the Archornithiform type, which, so far as we know, must always have had the metacarpal and finger-bones separate. [*Cf.* the characters given by Dr. Gadow (P. Z. S. 1892, p. 236) for his subclass *Archornithes.*]

The section from the carpus to the humero-radio-ulnar articulation is an *artificial* severance, introduced in the sketch in order to obtain room to demonstrate the question of the feathers in an easier manner, just as the digits II. and III. have been drawn widely apart for the same reason. It must be explained at once that the question of separation of these bones does not enter into the discussion at all.

The *major coverts* which come under consideration in our argument are coloured red. On the ulna the remiges ranging from the 1st to the 8th are cut off short.

The position of the carpal remex (belonging to the carpal covert, which has been the subject of our previous comment) is indicated by a cross (×). Its suppression is undoubtedly analogous to the suppression of the 5th cubital remex, marked by a dagger (†) in fig. 3. We are, in fact, better able to understand the apparent anomaly of a flight-feather being suppressed at such an unexpected point when we compare the one instance with the other.

The process of suppression is going on under our very eyes, as we see in the case of the carpal remex, which still exists, though in a dwarfed condition, in the Gulls, and is not vestigial as in other families of birds. There is a reason for this suppression, for the carpal remex occurs at a point of the wing where the existence of the quill of a flight-feather becomes extremely difficult, owing to the mechanical requirements of flight. It is, in fact, so much in the way, that its suppression must have become an absolute necessity for the bird's comfort. I was much struck by this fact on examining the wing of a dead *Gypaetus*, where the carpal covert is evidently out of place in the modern wing. On expanding and closing the wing, as any one can verify in a dead Hawk, the carpal covert is certainly not at home in its present position, and folds over most awkwardly when one closes the wing.

When the metacarpal bones became fused in process of time, instead of being separate as in the ancient bird, there was obviously no room for the remiges and coverts of the 3rd and 4th digits to coexist with those of the second, as the metacarpo-digitals occupy all the available space to such an extent that their position is very much cramped.

My belief is therefore that in process of time the feathers of the 3rd and 4th digits were *forced back on to the ulna*, where we may still trace their presence. To make this clear in the Plate, the feathers are represented in what I believe to have been their *original* position, and *are again represented in their actual situation on the ulna.*

Thus the series 6–8, coloured green in the Plate, of which the first flight-feather possesses a shorter covert, must originally have formed an independent group. This group was derived from a fourth digit, now expunged, the previous existence of which is sufficiently indicated by the shorter major covert—to judge from analogy of the 1st metacarpo-digital major covert.

The next group, preceding the one just dealt with, consists of the remiges 1–5, and includes also the flight-feather about to become suppressed, and numbered 1′, whose place is always indicated by the permanent carpal remex, as we have seen. The number of the quills for this group is, therefore, now six; remiges 1–4 are coloured blue. The fact that the carpal remex is sometimes situated on the base of the first metacarpal bone could not affect its serial affinity with the group under consideration, which is clearly shown by its shorter major covert. It has therefore been marked × in our Plate (fig. 3), in order to point out at once both its present, as well as its original, position.

The fifth or quintocubital remex on the ulna, marked †, which is absent in aquintocubital birds, must have been suppressed under perfectly similar conditions as the one referred to as commencing the group, and its obvious struggle for existence is nothing more or less than a repetition of the history of the fifth cubital remex. As the latter was succeeded by a remex, and frequently had a shorter covert, it inversely shows that it closed the series of flight-feathers belonging to this group ; the consequence was that it occupied the position now tenanted by the first one.

As will be seen in fig. 3 of the Plate, on the proximal phalanx of digit III. an additional remex is indicated by dotted lines, as well as a major covert represented by a red dot only. This remex, at first sight, would appear to be imaginary ; but this is not altogether the case. Seeing that in all instances the second phalanx of digit II. has two predigitals, there is no obvious reason why the phalanx of digit III. should not at some time have had the same number. In the wings of some Argus Pheasants I found, to my intense satisfaction, besides the carpal remex with its upper major covert, in a very rudimentary condition, the series indicated which I had expected to be present occasionally. The hypothesis is therefore confirmed by an actual fact. As a further proof of its being a true series, consisting of remex and dorsal major covert, it possesses a *ventral* major covert, an occurrence which I had hitherto vainly sought for, although fully expecting it to exist. In this Pheasant the ventral major covert of the carpal set is also obvious, and serves to further strengthen the argument respecting the carpal remex with its conspicuous dorsal major covert.

For the same reason a similar probability of the existence of an additional remex on the tip of the unguis of the 4th digit has been assumed. Indeed, there is every reason for assuming that another remex with its respective major covert might at one time have existed and become eliminated, besides the 5th cubital.

It is not likely, in the case of Passerine birds (which we must consider the most highly developed and best adapted for flight), that they should be quintocubital in the sense of birds of an arrested development. The greatly reduced number of cubital flight-feathers, eleven at the most, shows distinctly that their suppression has been carried out more completely, and what appears to be a fifth cubital may in reality be the sixth, which has gone further in the process of disappearing by suppressing the respective coverts as well. In addition to the detailed description of the pterylomorphism in the bird's wing, and its reflections on the derivation of the various groups of flight-feathers, together with their main coverts, a glance at the latter shows us that we have to deal with two distinct sections of remiges on the ulna. The first section, consisting of two parts, derived from the 3rd metacarpo-digit, comprises the cubitals 1–5, as well as 6–8, the latter being derived from *the lost 4th digit*. The remiges of the foregoing section, therefore, cannot be true cubitals, and must consequently be termed "remiges cubitales spuriæ,' or protometacarpo-digitals.

The remainder of the cubitals, comprising the remiges 9—*x*, form the second section and are the true remiges, or "remiges cubitales veræ." They are always set more closely to each other on the ulna and quite cramped on the olecranon. Together with the numerous modifications of ectodermal products, it is more than probable that in the course of time the skeletiferous parts and dermal structures have been equally modified, and thus the ulna has been elongated, in order not only to receive the flight-feathers of the dispensable 3rd and 4th metacarpo-digits, but also to supply the requirements of greater power of flight, an economy absolutely indispensable to the class Aves.

Having read and studied the various works and papers treating on the subject of the morphology and pteryolography of the bird's wing, I have failed to find any reference as to the exact value of the quills of the 1st digit, or pennæ pollicis.

Mr. Wray and others seem to content themselves with the assertion that they are remiges, without, however, giving any reliable data based upon special study.

Their insertion, as well as their texture, certainly entitles them to rank with the flight-feathers in general, except perhaps as regards the most proximal one of the 4 usually found.

This latter feather seems to stand somewhat apart from the others, at all events it is always more loosely attached to the single phalanx of digit I., and is frequently situated in close proximity to the *carpal major covert.* To assign it at once to the other supposed remiges would be rather premature. There is great difficulty in establishing the various series of dorsal coverts on the ala spuria. A certain amount of patience and perseverance, however, will overcome even this obstacle.

After many futile attempts I have at last succeeded in tracing and following up the series, when I found the major, median, minor, and marginal coverts to extend on the ala spuria in the order named.

This discovery, however, would not be sufficient proof of the value of the flight-feathers, or, as they ought to be termed, main quills, until such proofs be established.

I was fortunate enough to discover, for the first time, the presence of two ventral major coverts in the Demoiselle Crane, and although but small they were strong in texture and quite pennaceous. I have since found them in all birds except the smaller Passeres, where they probably escape detection on account of their diminutive size. Their identity as ventral major coverts is beyond doubt, from the fact of their lying immediately under the main quills with their *dorsum turned upwards,* the common character of all ventral major and median coverts which have been derived from the upper surface of the body. (*Cf.* Sundevall, Wray, Pycraft, &c.) This, together with the dorsal coverts, will show that the feather-quills of the *ala spuria* or *pennæ pollicis* are true remiges.

A few remarks may now be made on some points in connection with the two figures of the diagram representing

Mr. Wray's section through the wing of a bird as well as my own (fig. 6). Having found by means of microscopical sections, as already pointed out, that the dorsal major coverts of the metacarpo-digital are situated distally to their respective remiges, as is also shown by numerous instances of moulting, it will be seen that a modification in the relation of the median coverts of the 11th remex, viz. the remicle, is the natural consequence.

Some investigators of this subject (as in the case of Professor Elliott Coues) seem to have been greatly puzzled by the presence of what they believed to be two major coverts belonging to the last or 11th remex.

The relation of the major coverts to their remiges having been cleared up, as shown in my own section through the wing, which rectifies that of Mr. Wray, it will be, comparatively speaking, easy to see that such an error could simply accrue from the assumed position of the major coverts. The assumed and accessory major covert is nothing else than the true and only covert of the remicle, placed distally, in the same way as all the other major coverts.

In some measure, aquintocubitalism and quintocubitalism seem to reflect on the presence or the absence of the 11th metacarpo-digital flight-feather. So stable have I found this singular occurrence, at least in all the specimens hitherto examined, that I invariably designate a bird as aquintocubital if the 11th remex is present, and *vice versâ* *.

From the complication that arose regarding the supposed duplicate major covert of the remicle, to the covert of the 10th remex has not unfrequently been assigned the office of the remicle itself. If there is really an 11th remex present, then it can always be identified by its imbrication, which follows exactly the same rule as all the other flight-feathers, by having its proximal velum covert near the distal vane of the proximal remex, be it ever so insignificant in size.

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* [According to Dr. Gadow the following are exceptions, inasmuch as, though aquintocubital, they have only ten metacarpo-digitals (=primaries):—

Scopus.
Eurypyga.
Rallus.
Ocydromus.
Himantornis.
Psittaci.
Cypselus.
Caprimulgus.
Megapodius.

Cf. Bronn's 'Klassen und Ordnungen des Thier-Reichs,' iv. Abtheilung, Aves, Theil I. pp. 567–570 (1886).

Many Cypselidæ have eleven remiges. *Eurylæmus javanicus*, *Acanthylis caudacuta*, and *Ceryle americana* are instances in which I have found eleven remiges, though the wings are quintocubital.—W. P. P.]

Having endeavoured in the foregoing pages to demonstrate the identity of a covert feather, more or less conspicuous in certain genera or families, but always present, as well as its relation with respect to its serial value, and the inferences drawn from analogies, I feel it my duty to call attention to the seemingly unimportant agents which led me to explain, and find out in some degree, points for which no explanation has hitherto been given. Starting in an inverse manner (that is to say, looking out for possible analogies, which I believe I have satisfactorily proved), I could not conscientiously arrive at any other result than the one which is laid down in the Plate, with its explanation as regards pterylomorphism and its application.

When we realize the degree to which Nature takes advantage of this modification, so as to substitute quality for quantity, best seen in what must be looked upon as the most recent forms of the Class Aves, viz. the Passeres, then we can the better imagine how that, at one time or another, a type must have existed in which all the digits bore remiges, with their respective coverts, though not in a manner adapted for excessive aerial functions.

From the fact of these analogies having their traces still unmistakably indicated by the short major coverts, the sections and groups of feathers may be traced through the plumage in a more or less rectangular line, as pointed out and emphasized by Mr. Goodchild, viz. in the Plovers, &c., regarding the upper series of coverts.

To such a conclusion we must necessarily arrive from the arguments named, even had we never been acquainted with such an ancient form of Archornithes as the *Archæopteryx*.

It further follows that there must have been a type of Vertebrata linked to the Saurians and adapted to a *terrestrial* mode of life, and developing the power of flight in an almost direct line of descent; while, on the other hand, the Spheniscidæ may have had a prototype of themselves, differing from that of the type just indicated, and derived from a branch of the Saurians, probably having its root in an aquatic progenitor amongst the fossil Saurians. We cannot therefore feel greatly astonished at finding such strikingly different modifications as those existing between the Penguins and the majority of Orders of Birds.

REFERENCES TO TERMS.

Add.r.	Addigital remex or accessory remex.
A.s.	Ala spuria.
Cb.c.	Cubital covert or coverts.
Cb.r.	„ remex or remiges=secondaries.
C.c.	Carpal covert.
C.r.	„ remex.
Cp.b.	„ bone.
D.	Digit or digits (digitals).
D.c.	Dorsal coverts.
H.	Humerus.
Md.r.	Middigital remex.
Mc.r.	Metacarpal remex or remiges.
Mc.d.	Metacarpo-digitals or primaries.
P.mc.d.	Permanent metacarpo-digitals.
P.	Parapteron.
R.Cb.sp.	Remiges cubitales spurii *sive* Proto-metacarpo-digitals: 1–4 blue, 6–8 green.
R.Cb.v.	Remiges cubitales veri.
Rcl.	Remicle.
S.	Scapulars.
U.	Ulna (ulnare).
V.c.	Ventral coverts.
×	Marks the movement of the remex on from the proximal phalanx of digit II. to its present position on the carpus.
†	Marks the movement of feather No. 5 (marked with transverse lines) of digit III. from the proximal end of the metacarpal to its present position on the cubitus.

Red dashes indicate shortened coverts.
„ dots indicate coverts possibly present at some time or another.

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Fig. 1.

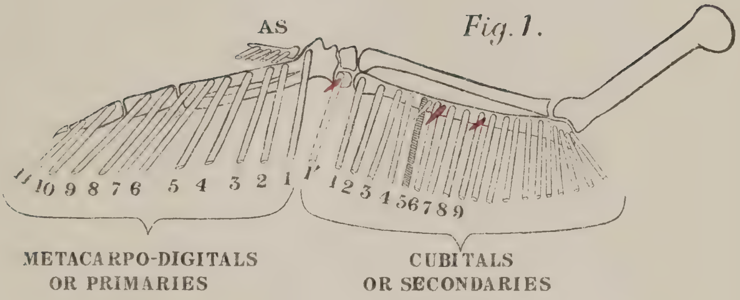

Fig. 2.

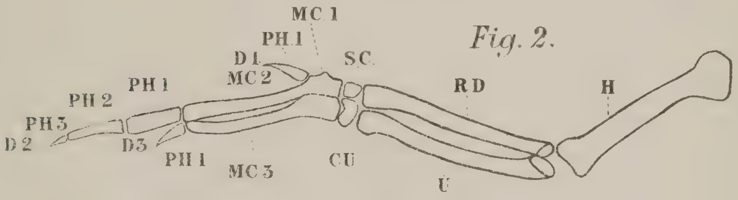

Fig. 3.

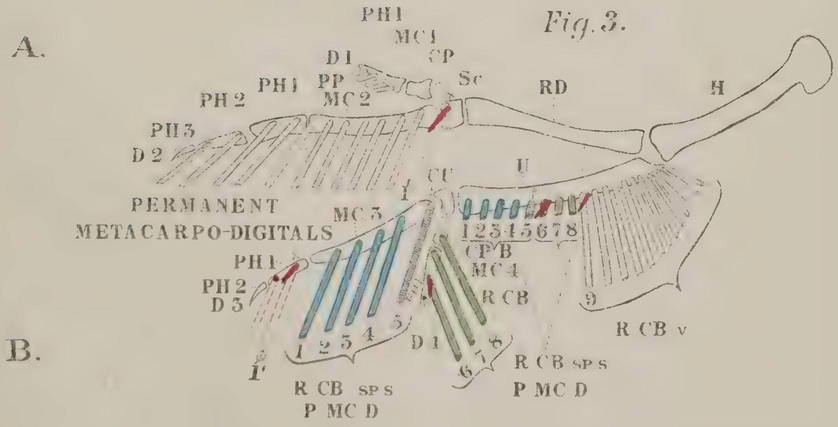

DIAGRAM OF THE BIRD'S WING.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D.

VOLUME III.

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PREFACE.

THE second session of the British Ornithologists' Club has been productive of as much useful and important work as that of the first session. Several papers on the history and distribution of Palæarctic birds have been contributed to the meetings, and the exhibition of two unrecorded eggs of the Great Auk is sufficient to endow the proceedings of the Club for 1893–94 with more than ordinary interest.

The roll of members has steadily increased, and now numbers 102.

The communications during the last session have been 76. Eight new generic titles have been proposed, and forty-six new species and subspecies described.

(Signed) R. BOWDLER SHARPE,
Editor.

July 27th, 1894.

RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(*As amended 20th June,* 1894.)

I. This Club was founded for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Any Member of that Union can become a Member of this Club on payment (to the Treasurer) of an entrance fee of *Five Shillings* and a subscription of *Five Shillings* for the current Session. Resignation of the Union involves resignation of the Club.

II. Members who have not paid their subscriptions before the last Meeting of the Session shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be Members of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears and a new entrance fee.

III. No Member of the B. O. U. can attend the Meetings of the Club as a Visitor, unless his usual residence is outside the United Kingdom. Every Member of the Club introducing a visitor shall pay *One Shilling* to the Treasurer.

IV. The Club shall meet, as a rule, on the Third Wednesday in every Month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects shall be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

V. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the B. O. C. shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member *who has paid his subscription.* Copies of this Bulletin shall be published and sold at *One Shilling* each.

VI. The affairs of this Club shall be managed by a Committee to consist of the Editor of 'The Ibis,' the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' and the Secretary and Treasurer, *ex officio,* with three other Members, one of whom shall be changed every year. The Committee shall have power to make and alter the Bye-laws.

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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XI.

The tenth meeting of the Club, being the first meeting of the Second Session, was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of October, 1893.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, Philip Crowley, H. O. Forbes, W. Graham, E. Hargitt, F. J. Jackson, L. H. Irby, A. P. Loyd, F. Penrose, T. Digby Pigott, C.B., R. H. Read, Howard Saunders (*Treasurer*), W. L. Sclater, R. Bowdler Sharpe, C. Stonham, F. W. Styan, H. A. Terry, H. T. Wharton, C. A. Wright.

Guests: Messrs. Castle and C. E. Fagan.

The Treasurer reported upon the present condition of the Club, and announced that the number of members was now 96. He proposed "*that Members joining the Club after November* 1, 1893, *should pay an entrance fee of* 5*s*." This resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Philip Crowley was elected a Member of the Committee, in the place of the Earl of Gainsborough, who retires in accordance with the Rules.

[*October* 30*th*, 1893.]

The CHAIRMAN, in addressing the Club on the opening of the Second Session, alluded to the loss sustained by the death of Mr. J. T. Tristram-Valentine, who had been a consistent supporter of the B. O. C. from the commencement, and whose death had deprived the Club of a genial and valued member. Mr. Sclater congratulated his brother-ornithologists on the approaching completion of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds.' The most important publication issued since the last meeting of the Club was the 'Avifauna of Laysan,' by the Hon. Walter Rothschild, and it was to be hoped that the present year would witness the completion of the 'Aves Hawaiienses' of Messrs. Scott-Wilson and A. H. Evans. Mr. Dresser was about to publish his long-expected 'Monograph of the Coraciidæ,' a companion volume to his work on the Bee-eaters. Mr. Sclater further expressed a hope that Mr. Seebohm's 'Monograph of the Turdidæ' would shortly see the light.

Referring to the members of the B. O. U. engaged in foreign travel, the Chairman said that Mr. John Whitehead had started to explore the interior of Luzon; Mr. Hose was once more in residence in Baram, to continue his researches into the zoology of the mountains of Sarawak; Mr. O. V. Aplin had returned from his visit to Uruguay; Mr. J. G. Millais was engaged in investigations in Mashonaland; Mr. Büttikofer was about to explore Dutch Borneo; and Mr. Campbell had returned to Corea. In the next number of the 'Ibis' would appear the continuation of Capt. Shelley's account of the collections sent from Nyassa-land by Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B.

The Chairman congratulated Oologists on the approaching completion of the arrangement of the birds' eggs in the Natural History Museum, carried out by Mr. Seebohm. Mr. Sclater then gave an account of the recent meeting of the German Ornithological Society at Cassel, at which he had been present. Referring to a new list of the Birds of Germany proposed by that Society, he expressed a hope that before long a revised edition of the B. O. U. List of British

Birds would be prepared either by the B. O. U. or the B. O. C.

Mr. Philip Crowley exhibited a curious buff-coloured variety of the Whinchat (*Pratincola rubetra*) obtained near Cromer during the late autumn.

Mr. T. Digby Pigott showed a fine series of Guillemots' eggs, procured from the Bempton Cliffs.

A letter was read from Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant, with reference to a communication from Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown which had appeared in the last number of the 'Ibis,' respecting the discovery of the Snow-Bunting's nest in Banffshire. Mr. Grant reminded the meeting that he had verbally described the share in the discovery taken by Messrs. L. Hinxman, Eagle Clarke, and others, and stated that a letter would be sent to the 'Ibis' on the subject. The Editor of the 'Bulletin' added that the omission of the names above mentioned was purely accidental.

Mr. F. J. Jackson exhibited a specimen of a curious Bush-Shrike which he had found on his last expedition into Eastern Africa—a young male, procured by him in the Mauungu Wilderness in December 1891; and on the return journey in April 1892 he obtained an adult male between Tsavo and Kufumika. The species was a dwarf form of *Dryoscopus gambensis*, but was so much smaller that there could be no difficulty in its recognition. Mr. Jackson proposed to call it

Dryoscopus pringlii, sp. n.

Similis *D. gambensi*, sed valdè minor: alâ vix 2·75 poll. (nec 3·7 ut in *D. gambensi*).

Mr. E. Hargitt described a new species of *Picumnus* recently received by the British Museum as

Picumnus salvini, sp. n.

Similis *P. undulato* ex Guianâ, sed gastræi plumis medialiter nigro-guttatis, margine fusco præcinctis: gutturis plumis nigro apicatis, sed maculâ medianâ nigrâ nullâ distinguendus.

Hab. adhuc ignota.

With regard to the distribution of the South-American species of *Picumnus*, Mr. Hargitt remarked that there were none peculiar to the Patagonian Sub-region; 10 to the Sub-Andean Sub-region; 2 common to the Sub-Andean and Central American Sub-regions; 11 peculiar to the Amazonian Sub-region; 7 to the Brazilian Sub-region; and 1 common to the Amazonian and Brazilian Sub-regions.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE stated that during a recent examination of the specimens of *Ardeirallus flavicollis* in the collection of the British Museum, he had discovered that the birds recorded from Bourou and Ceram belonged to a totally different species, closely allied to *Ardeirallus woodfordi*, of Ogilvie Grant, from Guadalcanar; and as the species appeared to be without a name, Dr. Sharpe proposed to call the Ceram bird

ARDEIRALLUS PRÆTERMISSUS, sp. n.

Similis *A. woodfordi*, sed sordidior, brunnescentior, et collo postico brunnescente nec castaneo, et subcaudalibus cineraceis nec arenariis distinguenda. Long. tot. 19 poll., ala 8·2, tarso 2·6, digito medio cum ungue 2·4.

Hab. in insulis Moluccanis, "Ceram" et "Bourou" dictis.

Dr. SHARPE also read a list of the birds obtained by Surgeon-Captain Penton at Suakin in the Red Sea. About 40 miles to the south-west of the town Captain Penton had visited the forest district of Erkowit and had obtained specimens of *Francolinus erkelii*, thereby adding considerably to our knowledge of its northern range. Some of the migratory birds were of considerable interest, as indicating the route by which certain species proceeded towards South Africa. The collection included examples of the following species:—*Argya acaciæ*, *Corvus scapularis*, *Cuculus canorus* (juv.), *Coccystes glandarius*, *Coracias garrula* (juv.), *Œna*

capensis, Pterocles lichtensteini, Pteroclurus senegallus, Numida ptilorhyncha, Ammoperdix heyi, Circus macrurus, C. æruginosus, Melierax polyzonus, Buteo ferox, Scops giu, Asio accipitrinus, Strix flammea, Plotus levaillanti, Ardea goliath, A. cinerea, Ardeola comata, Demiegretta gularis, Butorides atricapilla, Sterna caspia, S. albigena, S. saundersi, Hydrochelidon leucoptera, Rhynchops flavirostris, Œdicnemus crepitans, Chettusia leucura, Rhynchæa capensis, Hæmatopus ostralegus, Dromas ardeola, Cursorius gallicus, Houbara arabs, Crex crex, Inocotis comata, Phœnicopterus roseus.

The next Meeting of the Club will take place on Wednesday, the 15th of November.

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.* R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.* HOWARD SAUNDERS, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XII.

The eleventh meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 15th of November, 1893.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, W. T. Blanford, F.R.S., Leopold Field, H. O. Forbes, E. Hargitt, A. P. Loyd, P. W. Munn, H. J. Pearson, Howard Saunders (*Treas.*), R. Bowdler Sharpe, G. E. Shelley, F. W. Styan, E. Cavendish Taylor, Horace Terry, A. Trevor-Battye, H. T. Wharton.

Guests: C. E. Fagan, Dr. F. Harper (Chicago), Major Arthur Terry, E. Wakefield.

Mr. Sclater exhibited and made remarks upon a specimen of what is commonly called a "King" Parrot—*i. e.*, a variety of *Psittacus erithacus* stained with red (see Monteiro's 'Angola,' i. p. 54)—which is said not to be uncommon at Cassange, in the interior of Loanda.

Mr. Sclater also exhibited specimens of the eggs of two Caprimulgidæ (*Podager nacunda* and *Hydropsalis furcifera*) obtained by Mr. O. V. Aplin in Uruguay.

Mr. F. W. Styan exhibited the type specimen of the new

[*November 28th*, 1893.]

Bulbul from Formosa, which he had described as *Pycnonotus taivanus* in 'The Ibis' for 1893 (p. 470).

Mr. W. T. Blanford, F.R.S., read a paper on the proper names of Indian Eagles. A discussion ensued on the synonymy of these birds, especially the group of the Spotted Eagles (*Aquila clanga, A. maculata,* &c.). Mr. Blanford's paper will be published in 'The Ibis.'

The following communication from Mr. O. Salvin, F.R.S., on a new Humming-bird was read :—

" ANTHOCEPHALA BERLEPSCHI, sp. nov.

" *A. floricipiti* similis, sed apicibus remigum lateralium late albis nec cervinis, abdomine et tectricibus subcaudalibus grisescentibus nec rufescentibus distinguenda.

" ♀ a femina *A. floricipiti* eodem modo differt.

" *Hab.* Colombia; environs of Bogotá.

" *Mus.* Berlepsch et Brit.

" *Obs.* Graf H. von Berlepsch has sent me a beautiful male specimen of an *Anthocephala* in which he, with his usual acumen, noticed differences from *A. floriceps,* as pointed out above. I have compared it with the type of the latter species, which, with a female of the true *A. floriceps,* is in the British Museum.

" In the same collection are two other skins which, in the Catalogue of Trochilidæ (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xvi. p. 172), I placed with *A. floriceps.* One is a male with several of the rectrices missing; the other is a female in poor condition. With Count v. Berlepsch's beautiful male before me, it is evident that both these specimens (*b* and *c*) belong to the bird which I now separate.

" All three are skins of the so-called Bogotá make, and doubtless came from some upland locality within the hunting-grounds of the Bogotá bird-collectors. The two specimens of *A. floriceps* in the Museum were shot at an elevation of 5000 feet above the sea in the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta."

The Hon. Walter Rothschild communicated the following note on *Himatione dolei* :—

"Mr. Scott Wilson, in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1891 (p. 166), described, under the name of *Himatione dolei*, a bird from Mauai which has not since been identified. Through the kindness of Mr. Wilson I have been enabled to examine his type; and I found, to my astonishment, that it was a very young specimen of the bird which I had named *Palmeria mirabilis*, although no one could possibly have made this out from the description.

"As the type, therefore, proves beyond doubt that Wilson's bird is merely the young of my *Palmeria*, and as the latter genus is very distinct and has nothing to do with *Himatione*, being a genus of the Meliphagidæ near *Chætoptila* and *not* one of the Drepanididæ, the name of this peculiar bird must stand henceforth as *Palmeria dolei* (Wils.)."

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe stated that Dr. Gregory, during his recent expedition to Mount Kenia, had obtained *Pinarochroa hypospodia* and *Nectarinia johnstoni*, at an elevation of 14,000 feet. Dr. Gregory was too much occupied to be able to spare time for collecting birds, but by procuring examples of these two species he had shown that the avifauna of Mount Kenia bears a close relationship to that of Mount Kilimanjaro, where the above-named species had been discovered at an altitude of 14,000 and 11,000 feet by Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B. Mr. F. J. Jackson had also procured *P. hypospodia* on Mount Elgon at 11,000 feet, but had not met with *Nectarinia johnstoni*.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe announced that he had recently examined a collection of birds found by Mr. A. H. Everett in the western islands of the Sulu Archipelago. The following species appeared to be new to science :—

1. Scops sibutuensis, sp. n.

S. similis *S. mantananensi*, sed alis extus vix albo notatis, et remigibus intus vix fasciatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 8·0 poll., alæ 6·0.

Hab. Sibutu Island.

2. PRIONITURUS VERTICALIS, sp. n.

P. similis *P. flavicanti,* sed maculâ verticali scarlatinâ nec coccineâ, pileo argentescenti-cyaneo nec cæruleo, et gastræo flavicanti-viridi distinguendus. Long. tot. 13·0 poll., alæ 7·2, caudæ 3·4, rectr. med. 5·8.

Hab. Tawi-Tawi, Bongao and Sibutu Islands.

3. DICÆUM SIBUTUENSE, sp. n.

D. simile *D. trigonostigmati,* sed gutture saturatè schistaceo, maculâ dorsali aurantiacâ distinguendum. Long. tot. 3·2 poll., culm. 0·45, alæ 2·0, caudæ 0·85, tarsi 0·5.

Hab. Sibutu Island.

4. EDOLIISOMA EVERETTI, sp. n.

Mas a mari *E. morionis* ex insulâ Celebensi vix diversus. Fœm. tamen gastræo toto cinereo concolore facilè distinguenda.

Hab. Bongao Island.

Mr. W. T. BLANFORD, F.R.S., stated that he had recently examined an adult specimen of *Circus spilonotus* from Moulmein.

A communication was read from Mr. ABEL CHAPMAN on his experiences of the genus *Lagopus* in the British Islands, Scandinavia, and Spitsbergen. He considered that *Lagopus hyperboreus,* Sund. (*L. hemileucurus,* Gould), of Spitsbergen, was much more closely allied to the Willow-Grouse (*L. albus*) than to the Ptarmigan (*L. mutus,* Montin). It was a larger bird than the Ptarmigan, with stronger beak and feet, browner summer plumage, inhabited comparatively low ground, and uttered a Grouse-like " bec," quite unlike the " croak " of the Ptarmigan.

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.*	R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.*	HOWARD SAUNDERS, *Sec. & Treas.*

The next Meeting will take place on December 20th, at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, at 8.30 o'clock. The Dinner will be at 7 P.M.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XIII.

The twelfth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 20th of December, 1893.

Chairman : Henry Seebohm.

Members present :—E. Bidwell, P. Crowley, W. R. Ogilvie Grant, E. Hartert, E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, T. J. Monk, P. W. Munn, H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, Howard Saunders (*Treasurer*), R. Bowdler Sharpe (*Editor*), H. H. Slater, F. W. Styan, A. B. R. Trevor-Battye.
Visitor : J. M. Mitchell.

Mr. Meade-Waldo exhibited a series of clutches of curiously-marked eggs of the Common Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), from the Canary Islands.

Mr. Ernst Hartert exhibited the type of a new species of Snipe in the Tring Museum, for which the Hon. Walter Rothschild furnished the following description :—

"In No. IX. of the Bulletin Canon Tristram described a new Snipe from the Snares under the name of *Gallinago huegeli*, and mentioned that the Snipe from Antipodes Island would probably be also new. Having received a specimen

[*December* 30th, 1893.]

from that locality, I find Canon Tristram's surmise to be right, and have much pleasure in naming the species after him

Gallinago tristrami, Rothschild, sp. n.

The new species is nearest in pattern to *G. aucklandica,* Gray, but differs from its three allies in its deeper rufous-brown colour and its much larger size. Under surface brownish buff, with the flanks barred as in *G. huegeli,* Tristr., and not lunulated as in *G. aucklandica,* Gray, and *G. pusilla,* Buller. Wing 4·4 (4 in *G. aucklandica,* about 3·8 in *G. pusilla,* 4·2 in *G. huegeli*), bill 2·6 (2·3 in *G. aucklandica,* 1·6 to 1·9 in *G. pusilla,* 2·25 in *G. huegeli*), tail 2·2 (1·75 in *G. aucklandica,* about 1·5 in *G. pusilla,* 1·6 in *G. huegeli*).

Hab. Antipodes Island.

Mr. Hartert remarked that the locality given by Mr. Ogilvie Grant for *Lophophorus sclateri* in his recently published volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds' (vol. xxii. p. 282) required a slight alteration. The locality was given as the "Hills east and south-east of Sadiya," but Mr. Hartert stated that he believed that the species was entirely confined to the high Mishmi Hills, which form part of the Himalayas to the north of Sadiya. The hills to the east and south-east of the last-named place do not rise to any great height, and during a residence of two months at Sadiya he never heard of any specimens being brought from any other locality but the Mishmi Hills.

Mr. Howard Saunders described a new species of Great Skua from Victoria Land. Five specimens were in the British Museum, two of which had been recently bequeathed by the late Dr. McCormick, R.N., who procured all the above specimens during the Antarctic Expedition of 1841. The name proposed by Mr. Saunders was

Stercorarius maccormicki, sp. n.

Similis *S. antarctico,* primariorum albedine magis extensâ, sed gastræo dilutiore, pallide grisescenti-brunneo, nuchâ et collo undique dilute stramineo striolatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 22 poll., alæ 16.

Hab. Possession Island, Victoria Land. Lat. 71° 14′ S., long. 171° 15′ W.

A communication from Dr. TH. PLESKE was read, describing some new species of Tits from the collections of the St. Petersburg Museum. Dr. Pleske proposed the following names:—

1. ACREDULA CALVA, sp. n.

Allied to *A. glaucogularis*, Swinh. Forehead, lores, and a patch on the crown white, instead of clay-colour; back uniform bluish-grey; breast and abdomen pure white; flanks more tinged with vinous-red. Length of tail 79–88·5 millim., instead of 61–69 millim. in *A. glaucogularis*.

Hab. Upper Chuan-che, China.

2. CYANISTES BEREZOWSKII, sp. n.

Allied to *C. flavipectus*, Severtz. Crown of head tinged with smoky grey instead of bluish; no loral streak continued behind the eye; collar on the hind neck narrow, dingy in colour, sometimes scarcely perceptible; no patch on the abdomen.

Hab. Upper Chuan-che, China.

Dr. Pleske further remarked that *Pœcile songara*, Severtz., from the Tian-Shan, with a black cap, was quite distinct from *Pœcile affinis*, Przew. (with dusky brown ear-coverts), from the Upper Chuan-che and Kansu. *L. dichroides*, Przew., was also said to be distinct from *L. dichrous* (Hodgs.). The Penduline Titmouse from Central Asia (South Siberia, Dshungaria, Eastern Turkestan, and Western China) represents a distinct form of *Ægithalus*, allied to *Æ. pendulinus*, of Europe; it must stand as *Ægithalus stoliczkæ*, Hume.

Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE communicated some notes on African Coursers, with descriptions of the following new species:—

1. RHINOPTILUS SEEBOHMI, sp. n.

R. similis *R. cincto* (Heugl.), sed major, fasciâ post-auriculari lætè castaneâ nec nigricante, et rectrice penultimâ extus nigro fasciatim maculato distinguendus. Long. tot. 9 poll., alæ 6·5, tarsi 2·5.

Hab. in provinciâ Ovampensi terræ Damarensis.

Typus in Mus. H. Seebohm.

2. Rhinoptilus hartingi, sp. n.

R. similis *R. bisignato,* sed suprà cinnamomeus et gastræo isabellino distinguendus. Long. tot. 6·8 poll., alæ 4·9–5·6, tarsi 1·8.

Hab. in provinciâ Somalensi Africæ orientalis.

Typus in Mus. H. Seebohm.

3. Rhinoptilus albofasciatus, sp. n.

R. similis *R. chalcoptero,* sed fasciâ alari latâ albâ, et præcipuè rectricibus centralibus haud albo terminatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 10 poll., alæ 6·8, tarsi 2·85.

Hab. in Africâ meridionali.

Typus in Mus. Brit.

Dr. Sharpe further remarked that *R. gracilis* of Fischer and Reichenow proved to be identical with *R. bisignatus* of Hartlaub, of which the type was in the British Museum.

Mr. Seebohm drew attention to the apparent cross-lines of migration which took place in Eastern Siberia and the extreme North-west of America, whereby several Nearctic species visited the Eastern Palæarctic Region, such as *Turdus aliciæ, Junco hyemalis, Dendrœca coronata, Seiurus noveboracensis,* &c., while it was a well-known fact that Palæarctic species such as *Phylloscopus borealis, Pyrrhula cassini, Motacilla flava, Erithacus suecica,* &c., were visitors to Alaska.

The next Meeting of the Club will take place on Wednesday, the 17th of January, 1894.

(Signed)

Henry Seebohm,	R. Bowdler Sharpe,	Howard Saunders,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

N.B.—A misprint has occurred in the last number of the 'Bulletin.' Page viii, line 11, *for* 'remigum' *read* 'rectricum.'—Ed.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XIV.

The thirteenth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 17th of January, 1894.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, H. O. Forbes, W. Graham, E. Hartert, J. E. Harting, H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, H. E. Rawson, Howard Saunders (*Treasurer*), W. L. Sclater, H. Seebohm, R. Bowdler Sharpe (*Editor*), C. J. Wilson, J. Young.

Visitor: Chas. Gibson.

The Chairman called the attention of the meeting to the retirement of Dr. Jean Cabanis from the Editorship of the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' after having founded that journal and edited it for 41 years. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

> "That the sincere thanks of the B. O. C. are due to Dr. Jean Cabanis for his able conduct of the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for a period of 41 years, and that the best wishes of the Club be offered to him on his retirement."

[*January 25th*, 1894.]

The Hon. Walter Rothschild sent for exhibition a series of Snipes from various islands of the New Zealand region, and offered the following remarks:—

"Since I laid before the B. O. C. the description of *Gallinago tristrami* I have received seven more specimens of *G. huegeli*, Tristr., and *G. aucklandica*. Of these the two *G. huegeli* are labelled, one as coming from Auckland Island and the other from Antipodes Island. Now *G. huegeli* is supposed to be confined to the Snares, the two only known specimens having come from there. Mr. Danneferd, who sent my specimens, gets most of his island-birds from the crew of the 'Hinemoa,' and I have more than once noticed in collections made by them for Sir Walter Buller that the labelling was most careless and incorrect. On the other hand, Danneferd positively states in a letter that one Snipe came from Antipodes Island and the other six from Auckland Island, and specially mentions that he sent examples of two species from Auckland Island. Personally I am more inclined to doubt the accuracy of the labelling than the possibility of two isolated islands (Auckland and Antipodes Is.), more than 500 miles apart, presenting the very unusual fact of two quite distinct species of Snipe (*G. huegeli* and *G. aucklandica*) on the one, and one of them only (*G. huegeli*) on the other, while on a neighbouring group (Chatham Is.) we have a third distinct and somewhat intermediate form. Lastly, we should have the still more incredible fact that *G. huegeli* occurs in company with *G. aucklandica* on Auckland Island and with *G. tristrami* on Antipodes Island, while on the Snares it is the sole species of Snipe, and on the Chatham Islands *G. pusilla* alone is found. The rather unfortunate doubt as regards the locality of some of my specimens, however, does not, in my opinion, interfere with the fact that there are four distinct species of Antarctic Snipe, as the series laid before you by Mr. Hartert shows."

To illustrate these notes Mr. Hartert laid on the table over 40 skins of *G. pusilla*, 6 of *G. aucklandica*, 3 of *G. huegeli*, and 2 of *G. tristrami*.

In the discussion on Mr. Rothschild's paper which ensued, Mr. H. O. Forbes pointed out that the Snipe of which he had found sub-fossil remains on the Chatham Islands, and to which he had given the name of *Gallinago chathamica*, appeared to agree in length of bill with *G. tristrami.*

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE made some remarks upon the geographical distribution of the Herons of the genus *Butorides*, of which he recognized eight different species and races, as follows :—

1. BUTORIDES ATRICAPILLA (Afzel.).

Hab. Africa and Madagascar.

Of this, *B. rutenbergi* (Hartl.) seems to be the ordinary winter dress.

2. BUTORIDES STRIATA (L.).

Hab. S. America, from Colombia and Venezuela to Peru, Southern Brazil, and the Argentine Republic.

3. BUTORIDES JAVANICA (Horsf.).

Hab. India generally and Ceylon east to Southern China, and south throughout the Burmese countries to the Malayan Peninsula and Indo-Malayan Islands as far as Celebes.

It is this Indian form which inhabits the islands of the Chagres group, as well as Mauritius, Rodriguez, the Seychelles, and the Comoro Islands. In Madagascar, however, the African form, *B. atricapilla*, occurs.

Subsp. *α*. BUTORIDES AMURENSIS (Schrenck).

Hab. Amoor Land and the Japanese Islands, extending south to Southern China (Canton; Amoy), Formosa, the Philippine Islands, and Labuan.

This is simply a very large race of *B. javanica*, which has been identified by some authors with the Australian *B. macrorhyncha.*

Subsp. nov. *β*. BUTORIDES SPODIOGASTER, Sharpe.

Similis *B. javanicæ*, sed omninò saturatior, fuliginoso-schistacea, abdomine sordidè cervino. Long. tot. 17·5 poll., alæ 6·7.

Hab. Andaman Islands and Nicobars.

This race is of a so much darker leaden-grey colour than *B. javanica*, especially on the neck and sides of the body, that the two birds are easily recognized on comparison. The Australian race, *B. stagnatilis*, is still darker than *B. spodiogaster*, and has a much darker rust-colour on the abdomen.

Subsp. γ. BUTORIDES STAGNATILIS.

Hab. Northern and Eastern Australia to New Guinea and throughout the Moluccas to Timor and Flores, and eastwards to the Solomon group, New Caledonia, the Fiji, Society, and Friendly Islands.

There seems to be but one species of *Butorides* in Australia, *B. macrorhyncha* of Gould being founded on the winter plumage of *B. stagnatilis*.

4. BUTORIDES PLUMBEA (Sundev.).

Hab. Galapagos Islands.

5. BUTORIDES VIRESCENS (L.).

Hab. North America generally, ranging throughout Central America to Panama and Venezuela, as well as the Greater and Lesser Antilles.

After the examination of a large series of Green Bitterns from America, Dr. Sharpe stated his inability to recognize more than one species, viz. *B. virescens*, several of the forms and subspecies recently described having been apparently founded on differences of plumage to be accounted for by age and season.

A communication was read from Mr. G. E. H. BARRETT-HAMILTON respecting two examples of the American Red-breasted Snipe, taken respectively on the 29th of September in Queen's Co. and in Tipperary on the 11th of November. The latter is tentatively referred to the Western form, *Macrorhamphus scolopaceus*.

Mr. J. E. Harting exhibited a specimen of a rare Australian Duck (*Stictonetta nævosa*) from Gippsland.

Mr. H. J. Pearson made some remarks on the birds observed by himself and Mr. Bidwell during a recent trip to Norway. A paper on this subject will appear in the forthcoming number of 'The Ibis.'

The next Meeting of the Club will take place on Wednesday, the 21st of February, 1894, when

Mr. E. Bidwell will exhibit his series of Photographs of 64 Eggs of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*).

Mr. Howard Saunders will give a sketch of the geographical distribution of *Larus argentatus* and allied species.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe will make some remarks on the geographical distribution of certain Herons.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*	R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*	Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XV.

The fourteenth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of February, 1894.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, Philip Crowley, W. E. De Winton, W. Graham, E. Neale, F. Menteith Ogilvie, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, T. Digby Pigott, C.B., Major R. G. Wardlaw Ramsay, R. H. Read, Howard Saunders, H. Seebohm, R. Bowdler Sharpe, F. W. Styan, W. B. Tegetmeier, Capt. H. A. Terry, C. J. Wilson, John Young.

Visitors: Dr. J. R. Bradford, C. Pearson, H. Stevens.

Mr. E. Bidwell exhibited his set of photographs of eggs of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*), and stated that the series laid before the Members comprised illustrations of every known specimen except four. By the kind permission of Mr. Stevens, Mr. Bidwell was also able to exhibit to the meeting the egg of the Great Auk which was to be sold by auction on the morrow. It was an object of great interest to all the members present, as it was originally the property of Yarrell, and after his death passed into the hands of his friend Frederick Bond, along with the rest of whose collection it was ultimately purchased by Baron d'Hamonville.

[*March* 8, 1894.]

Mr. Seebohm exhibited an example of the North-Australian Ground-Thrush, *Geocichla heinii* (Cabanis) = *Oreocincla iodura* of Gould, and remarked as follows:—"This specimen has a very curious history. About the year 1836 it was sold by Brandt, the well-known Hamburg taxidermist, to Baron von Gyllenkrog. Brandt asserted that it was shot on Fyen (Fühnen), the large island at the south-east corner of Jutland. On the death of the Baron it became the property of the governors of the University of Lund, in the extreme south of Sweden. The veteran ornithologist of Heligoland erroneously identified it with the Himalayan Ground-Thrush, and recorded it as *Turdus dauma* (see Gaetke, Vogelwarte Helgoland, p. 245), asserting that the alleged locality was erroneous, an assertion which is probably correct, and substituting the statement that it had been caught on Heligoland in the days when Koopman and the elder Reymers, the well-known Heligoland bird-stuffers, were in the habit of sending skins to Brandt—a statement which is probably incorrect. Curiously enough, the type of *Geocichla heinii* in the Museum of Oberamtmann Ferdinand Heine at Halberstadt was purchased of a dealer (probably the same Brandt of Hamburg), with the locality 'Japan' attached to it. In the Lund specimen, which I am able to exhibit to-night, thanks to the courtesy of the authorities of that Institution, the russet (rather than olive) tone of the upper parts, the absence of pale subterminal spots on each feather of the same, conclusively prove that it cannot be either the Siberian or the Himalayan *Oreocincla*, whilst its small size, short tail, and large white terminal patch on the outer rectrices show its distinctness from its near ally in South-east Australia (*G. lunulata*), and prove the species to be *G. iodura* (Gould). It is satisfactory to be able to relieve the list of European birds of a species like *G. dauma*, so thoroughly Indian and non-migratory that its occurrence in Heligoland was difficult to account for."

Mr. Sclater exhibited a kind of needle used by the natives of Northern Queensland for the purpose of weaving bags to hold "*Pituri*" (leaves of an intoxicating plant). The needle was made of a portion of the stem of the feather of a bird (apparently a species of Heron), with the vanes and part of the shaft removed, and the twisted thread was neatly attached to an "eye" at the larger end.

Mr. SCLATER also exhibited a skin of a Rail—*Amaurolimnas concolor* (see Scl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1868, p. 452),—sent to him by Prof. Nation, of Lima, and made remarks on the geographical distribution of this species.

This Rail was new to the fauna of Western Peru, and the specimen had been procured in a valley some 10 or 12 miles distant from Lima. It was a female, with the "bill green and the feet and irides crimson."

On behalf of Canon TRISTRAM, Mr. SCLATER further exhibited the second known specimen of *Coracias weigalli*, Dresser (Mon. Rollers, pl. vi.) from Newala, E. Africa—the same locality from which came the original type, which had been unfortunately lost. This specimen served to confirm the validity of the species, which had been impugned by Dr. Sharpe (Cat. B. xvii. p. 23).

Mr. DIGBY PIGOTT, C.B., exhibited some specimens of shingly beach from Suffolk, in which the stones were spotted in such a peculiar manner that it became almost impossible to detect the eggs of Terns, which chose these surroundings for their nesting-place.

A beautiful series of eggs of the Herring-Gull (*Larus argentatus*) from N.E. Norway were shown by Mr. H. J. PEARSON, and amongst them were some abnormally coloured eggs of a reddish hue. Mr. Pearson also exhibited some remarkable sets of eggs of Temminck's Stint (*Actodromas temmincki*), Dotterel (*Eudromias morinellus*), &c.

Mr. F. D. GODMAN sent for exhibition an Emu's egg of a beautiful blue colour, which had been laid by a bird in Sir E. Loder's park in Sussex. It was evident that the colouring of the egg, though of such a fine tint, was incomplete, as the shell was characterized by an absence of the green granulations usually seen in the egg of the Emu (*Dromæus novæ-hollandiæ*).

Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS made some remarks upon the geographical distribution of the members of the Herring-Gull group of Laridæ, viz. *Larus argentatus* and allied species. His conclusions were as follows:—"Typical *Larus argentatus*, with a pale grey mantle and flesh-coloured legs and feet, inhabits the coasts of the Northern Atlantic from Lapland to Iceland and Greenland; while in the Polar Sea it is found as far north and west as the North Georgian Islands, leaving a comparatively small gap in the direction of Bering Straits, where it is apparently absent. Southward it is found on both sides of America, more sparingly on the Pacific side, down to Mexico; in Europe its range extends down to mid-France. On the coast of France commences the range of *L. cachinnans*, a species with a somewhat darker mantle and bright yellow legs, and bright orange-red ring round the eye. This form frequents the Peninsula, the Azores, Madeira, Canaries, the Mediterranean and North Africa, stretching eastward through the Caspian Steppes and Southern Siberia to Lake Baikal, and visiting India in winter. Between the White Sea and the Taimyr Peninsula (where Cape Chelyuskin reaches about 77° N. lat.) there seems to be a break of continuity as regards any grey-mantled species, but thence to Bering Straits a form appears which differs from the southern race in having *flesh-coloured legs and feet*. This species, named by Prof. Palmén *L. argentatus* var. *vegæ*, ranges in winter to Japan and China, where it has been erroneously named *L. occidentalis*, and, more excusably, *L. cachinnans*—excusably, because there was until lately no record of the colour of the legs in life, and these had dried orange-yellow in preserved specimens. All the above-mentioned forms may be considered sub-species of *L. argentatus*. Along Kamschatka, in the Sea of Okotsk, and through the Kuril Islands to Hakodate in Northern Japan, another larger and much darker-mantled Gull is met with, with purplishred legs, and a slightly different pattern on the primaries, in this respect intermediate between *L. argentatus* and *L. marinus*, though nearest to the former. This is *L. schistisagus* of Stejneger, and is quite a good species. Turning westward, we find *L. fuscus*, extending from the Faroes and Scandinavia to the Mediterranean (where it breeds), and also occurring in the Red Sea; a species which varies considerably in the intensity of colour in the mantle, but which is specially characterized by its chrome-yellow legs and small feet. From the Dwina and the White Sea, eastwards to the Petchora, Ob and Yenesei rivers, visiting the north-west of India in winter (accidentally wandering to South Greenland and Heligoland), is found *L. affinis*, Reinhardt, a species with dark grey mantle and yellow legs, but having a proportionately larger foot. It should be remarked that in all these species and subspecies there are niceties of distinction which cannot be detailed in an abstract like the present.

"On the Pacific coast of America, from Vancouver Island to Lower California, we find the true *L. occidentalis*, Audubon, with a stout bill, large flesh-coloured legs and feet, and very dark slate-grey mantle; while the black-mantled *L. dominicanus* of the Southern Hemisphere merely calls for passing mention as an offshoot of the same group, possibly derived through *L. occidentalis*."

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for publication the following note:—

"On examining carefully two specimens in spirit, and a series of skins, of *Palmeria dolei* (Wilson), I find to my astonishment that this bird is a true member of the Drepanidæ, and not, as I at first thought, a Meliphagine bird. Its undoubted resemblance to *Moho* and *Chætoptila* is, therefore, superficial, as appears to be the case with *Drepanis pacifica*."

Mr. ERNST HARTERT wrote:—

"As I am not able to attend the Meeting of the B. O. C., I should like to call the attention of the Club to two recent publications in Germany which appear to be not generally known in this country.

"The first is a book of 108 pages by Dr. E. Rey, 'Altes und Neues aus den Haushalte des Kuckucks.' This book may be known to many British ornithologists by name, but I have seen no comment on the surprising statement *that the old theory of the slow development of the eggs in the ovary of the Cuckoo is erroneous, and that the Cuckoo lays its eggs at much shorter intervals than is usually supposed; and, further, that it lays from seventeen to twenty-two eggs.*

"I will only add that the statements of Dr. Rey are based upon an immense mass of material, probably greater than has ever been examined by a single naturalist, and his results are founded upon a long experience. I myself can add no comment, and I need hardly add that there are several other interesting questions treated of at length in Dr. Rey's book.

"The second publication to which I wish to draw attention is a pamphlet of 64 pages, by Dr. Heinrich Wickmann, 'Die Entstehung der Färbung der Vogeleier.' It treats of the origin of the coloration of eggs. This interesting question is difficult to solve, and very little is yet known about it.

"The only positive result that has come to light from practical investigations on fresh birds with regard to the question,—'*where in the body of the bird does the colour of the egg-shell originate?*' seems to have been Dr. Kutter's observation on an egg found in a female *Falco tinnunculus*. Kutter's observations led him to believe that the colour originated in the upper part of the oviduct, and this was generally accepted, as no other theory seemed to rest on any assured basis. Now, however, Dr. Wickmann, after a period of some years' careful studies and numerous dissections of birds, comes to the conclusion that the colour originates even earlier than in the oviduct, *i. e. in the ovary itself!*

"The pamphlet must be studied before being criticised, and I can only add that Wickmann's deductions seem to be very clear and convincing; but I hope to find leisuretime to investigate the matter later on, although it is extremely difficult to get the necessary material at the proper season. I consider Wickmann's pamphlet to be one of great importance."

Mr. Tegetmeier exhibited a specimen of a curious chestnut variety of the Common Partridge (*Perdix cinerea*) killed during the past autumn in Shropshire. It closely resembled the form called on the Continent *Perdix montana*.

The next Meeting of the Club will take place on Wednesday, the 21st of March, 1894, when Dr. Bowdler Sharpe will make some remarks on the geographical distribution of certain Herons.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*	R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*	Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XVI.

THE fifteenth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, March 21st, 1894.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. BIDWELL, WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, S. R. CLARKE, PHILIP CROWLEY, W. E. DE WINTON, C. H. CATON HAIGH, F. MENTEITH OGILVIE, H. J. PEARSON, T. DIGBY PIGOTT, C.B., HOWARD SAUNDERS, HENRY SEEBOHM, R. BOWDLER SHARPE.

Visitor: Dr. F. A. JENTINK (Leiden).

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT sent for exhibition a skin of a Babbling-Thrush, with the following observations:—

"In looking through a collection of birds made by Mr. L. A. Waddell, F.L.S., in Sikhim, I find a new species of *Garrulax*, which I propose to call after its discoverer,

"GARRULAX WADDELLI, sp. nov.

"Like *G. pectoralis*, but with the rufous collar almost obsolete; the superciliary stripe grey, not white; ear-coverts pale buff with blackish shaft-stripes, instead of black, or black streaked with white, and the tail rather narrowly tipped with ashy, whereas in *G. pectoralis* it is broadly tipped with white.

"*Hab.* Rungeet (Rangit) River, Sikhim, 4000 feet.

[*March 30th*, 1894.]

"This specimen—an adult female, obtained in April 1891—will come into Dr. Sharpe's 'Key' (see Cat. B. vii. p. 434) after *G. albigularis*, which has the hind neck uniform with the back; but the words of the 'Key' should be modified to 'uniform or nearly uniform.' The differences between the new species and *G. albigularis* are of course obvious, the latter having no black pectoral band."

Mr. Sclater exhibited the skin of a Hemipode, forwarded to him by Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., being the first example of this family obtained in Nyasaland. It was shot on the plateau near Zomba, in December last. Mr. Ogilvie-Grant had determined it as *Turnix nana* (*cf.* Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxii. p. 541) of Natal and Cape Colony.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe read a paper on the geographical distribution of the Little Bitterns (*Ardetta*), of which he recognized nine species.

1. Ardetta minuta (L.).

Hab. Central and Southern Europe below 60° N. lat., the countries of the Mediterranean, eastward to Central Asia, Cashmere, and wintering in the plains of N.W. India to 80° E. long. N.E. Africa in winter, and said to have occurred in East and West Africa.

2. Ardetta podicipes (Bp.).

Represents *A. minuta* in Africa and Madagascar, and appears to be generally distributed south of 15° N. lat.

3. Ardetta sinensis.

Hab. From N. China and the Japanese islands throughout China to the Burmese countries, the peninsula of India, and Ceylon, breeding in all these countries. It is also found, apparently as a winter visitant, in the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago to New Guinea and New Britain. The British Museum contains two specimens from Australia. The species is likewise found in the Seychelles, a very interesting fact when taken into consideration with the distribution of *Butorides javanica* in the Mascarene Islands (*cf. anteà*, p. xvii).

4. Ardetta exilis (Gm.).

Hab. North America generally, up to the Great Lakes; south to Texas, Florida, California, Guatemala, and the Greater Antilles. *Ardetta neoxena* of Cory seems to be founded on very old individuals of *A. exilis,* in which the rufous tips to the quills and the light stripes on the back have disappeared with age or wear.

5. Ardetta erythromelas (V.).

Hab. Represents *A. exilis* in South America from Panama to British Guiana and Trinidad, and thence south to Paraguay and Southern Brazil. It also extends to Peru.

6. Ardetta pusilla (V.).

Hab. Closely allied to *A. exilis* of N. America. Confined to Australia and New Zealand.

7. Ardetta eurythma.

Hab. From North-eastern Siberia and Amurland, extending through all the Japanese islands to China, apparently breeding on the Yangtze, occurring in winter in Cochin China and Borneo.

8. Ardetta involucris.

Hab. Chili to Paraguay, Southern Brazil, and Northern Patagonia. Recorded from Peru, but erroneously, as the species from that country is *A. erythromelas.*

9. Ardetta cinnamomea.

Hab. From Amurland to China and Formosa, not occurring in any of the Japanese islands, but throughout the Indian Peninsula and Ceylon, the Malayan Peninsula and islands to the Philippines and Celebes.

Dr. Sharpe next drew attention to the distribution of some species of the genus *Nycticorax,* especially to that of the true Night-Herons. Between *N. nævius* of North America and the ordinary *N. nycticorax* of Europe he was unable to find any specific difference, and therefore the range of this species appeared to be bounded by about 50° N. lat. in both hemispheres, and beyond that line it could only be considered an accidental visitor. Wherever suitable localities existed, the Night-Heron bred, so that it was found equally at home in South Africa as it was in Hungary, and to the east it occurred as far north as the Japanese islands and Pekin, and as far south as Java and Celebes. In the Neotropical Region it was found in Guiana, Colombia, and Ecuador, and was probably the species which had been recorded from the Ucayali river in Upper Amazonia.

The distribution of the two other species of Night-Heron in South America was curious. *N. cyanocephalus*, Molina (*N. obscurus*, auct.), was found in Magellan Straits, northward to Central Chili. Its place was taken in Peru by another species, closely allied to *N. nycticorax*, which would have to bear the unwieldy name of *N. tayazu-guira* of Vieillot, founded on the "*Garza tayazu-guira*" of Azara. This species ranged from Peru to the province of Tarapacá in Northern Chili, through Bolivia to Southern Brazil and Argentina, and then re-occurred in the Falkland Islands, where *N. cyanocephalus* might have been expected.

Of the species of *Ardeirallus*, Dr. SHARPE characterized a new form as

ARDEIRALLUS NESOPHILUS, sp. n.

Similis *A. melæni*, sed abdomine schistaceo, gutture et præpectore paullulum rufescenti-brunneo marmoratis distinguendus. Long. tot. 22 poll., alæ 8·2.

Hab. in insulâ "Duke of York" dictâ.

The species of *Ardeirallus* are apparently four in number. *A. flavicollis*, which breeds in the Eastern Narra, Sind, occurs again in the Wynaad, Travancore, and Ceylon, but is widely distributed in Central and Southern China, west to India, and south to the Malayan countries to Java, Borneo, and Celebes. *A. gouldi* is confined to Australia and New Guinea. *A. melas* to the Molucca islands (Halmahéra, Batchian, Morotai, and Bourou), extending to the Sanghir group, and it is probably the species of Amboina; *A. nesophilus* appears to be confined to Duke of York Island and New Britain.

Dr. Sharpe then referred to *Ardea purpurea,* which was shown to consist of two distinct forms with a separate and distinct geographical distribution. The eastern form would have to bear the name of *Ardea manillensis* of Meyen—an unsatisfactory title, as the species is not confined to the Philippines, but is spread over the Indian Region from Sind to Ceylon and eastwards to the Burmese countries and Southern China, south to the Malayan Peninsula and islands, as far as Celebes. True *A. purpurea* inhabits Central and Southern Europe and Asia, as far east as Western Turkestan, and extends its range south into suitable districts of Africa, as far as Cape Colony.

Mr. Sclater called attention to the great inconvenience which would result to ornithological nomenclature by the enforcement of the "*Scomber scomber*" principle, and pointed out that it would cause the alteration of at least 26 names in the 'B.O.U. List of British Birds.' The Stricklandian Code (which was the first promulgated in modern times upon the strict rule of priority) said expressly (see Report, p. 10) that "specific names, when adopted as generic, must be changed." No conclusive reasons were shown in either the American or German Code for the alteration of this rule, and under these circumstances Mr. Sclater held that the Stricklandian Code should not be violated.

A short discussion followed; and it was announced that a debate on the subject would follow at a future meeting.

The next Meeting of the Club will take place on Wednesday, April 18th, 1894, when two hitherto unrecorded eggs of the Great Auk will be exhibited.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*
R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*
Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XVII.

The sixteenth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of April, 1894.

Chairman : Henry Seebohm.

Members present :—E. G. Barrett-Hamilton, E. Bidwell, Philip Crowley, W. E. De Winton, F. D. Godman, F.R.S., W. Graham, Dr. Edward Hamilton, Edward Hargitt, Ernst Hartert, Major A. P. Loyd, T. J. Monk, P. W. Munn, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, T. Digby Pigott, C.B., Hon. Walter Rothschild, Osbert Salvin, F.R.S., Howard Saunders, R. Bowdler Sharpe, C. B. Wharton, John Young.

Visitors : Col. E. Delmé-Radcliffe, Mr. C. E. Fagan, Dr. A. Donaldson Smith (Philadelphia), Mr. H. Stevens.

Mr. E. Bidwell exhibited two eggs of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*), which had apparently never been recorded, and which had been brought by the owner to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) for identification in March last. One was a very handsome specimen, but the second was somewhat damaged: they had no history beyond the fact that they were purchased at a country sale amongst a lot of old "curios."

[*April 30th*, 1894.]

The Hon. Walter Rothschild also exhibited an egg of the Great Auk from his collection.

Mr. Rothschild likewise brought for exhibition some eggs of Queen Victoria's Rifle-bird (*Ptilorhis victoriæ*), which had been obtained by Mr. Meek on the coast of Queensland, opposite to the Barnard Islands, where the species was first discovered.

Some skins and living specimens of *Apteryx* were also exhibited by Mr. Rothschild, who made the following remarks on the birds:—

"At the meeting of the Club held last June, when I read a paper on the known species of *Apteryx*, it appeared to me that several Members present were still far from satisfied that *Apteryx haasti* was really a species, and not a hybrid between *Apteryx australis* and *Apteryx oweni*.

"Since the meeting in June I have received some twenty-five more specimens of *Apteryx haasti*, making a series of sixty skins now in my possession, all of which show no variation whatever except in size.

"About three weeks ago I received four living specimens of an Apteryx, which were noticed, on their landing, to be very distinct. On careful examination I was at once struck by the presence of cross-bars on the plumage, as well as by the longitudinal stripes usually seen in the plumage of *Apteryx mantelli*. Further investigation, together with the fact that the plumage on none of the four examples is identical, clearly shows them to be hybrids between *Apteryx mantelli* and *Apteryx occidentalis*. It will thus be seen at a glance that, while all specimens of *Apteryx haasti* are regularly barred, the hybrids between barred forms and striped forms of *Apteryx* show a mixed character of marking. We may therefore fairly deduce this fact, that, whatever else it may be, *Apteryx haasti* is certainly not a hybrid between *Apteryx australis* and *Apteryx oweni*."

Mr. E. Hartert exhibited some skins of *Eupsychortyx*, and remarked that among a number of bird-skins from Venezuela, recently received at Mr. Walter Rothschild's Museum at Tring, are specimens of the *Eupsychortyx sonninii* from the plain of Valencia; while from Cumaná, on the north coast of Venezuela, there was an apparently new species, which he proposed to call

EUPSYCHORTYX MOCQUERYSI, sp. nov.

This is nearest to *E. sonninii* (Temm.), but differs from it in having the throat white all along the middle, most of the feathers showing distinct narrow cross-bars of black. The breast, instead of being pale vinaceous brown with fine black vermiculations and sparsely spotted with white, is of a peculiar vinaceous-cinnamon and quite uniform except on the lower part. This same colour extends—slightly brightened in tint—down the abdomen and sides of the body, where, however, it is varied by large white spots bordered with black. Length about 9 inches, wing 4·1 to 4·25, tail 2·6, tarsus 1·1, middle toe with claw 1·35.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE made some remarks on the classification of the Herons, with reference to the monographic papers of Dr. Reichenow (J. f. O. 1877, pp. 225–277) and Dr. Stejneger (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. x. pp. 271–319). The last-named naturalist has divided the *Ardeinæ* into two groups, Herons and Bitterns, the former having twelve tail-feathers and the latter ten. This Dr. Sharpe considered to be an excellent arrangement, and in the latter group he proposed to place the genera *Botaurus, Ardetta, Nannocnus, Ardeirallus,* and *Zebrilus.* All the specimens of the last genus in the British Museum possess ten tail-feathers, though Dr. Reichenow gives the number as twelve.

To the group of Bitterns with ten tail-feathers Dr. Sharpe added two more, which he proposed to call

XANTHOCNUS, gen. nov.

This genus contains four species, viz.:—*X. flavicollis* (Lath.), *X. melas* (Salvad.), *X. gouldi* (Bp.), and *X. nesophilus* (Sharpe). *Cf.* Bull. *antea,* p. xxxii.

All these species have hitherto been placed in the genus

Ardeirallus, the type of which is *A. sturmi* of Africa; but the genus *Xanthocnus* is distinguished by its long bill, which is equal in length to the middle toe and claw.

ERYTHROPHOYX, gen. nov.

This new genus contains two species hitherto placed in *Ardeirallus* (potius *Xanthocnus*), but distinguished from the species belonging to *Xanthocnus* by the long tarsus much exceeding the length of the middle toe and claw. The type of the genus is *E. woodfordi* (Grant), and a second species is *E. prætermissa* (Sharpe).

Among the groups of Herons with twelve tail-feathers Dr. Sharpe pointed out that *Phoyx,* a name proposed by Dr. Stejneger as a subgenus to include the Purple Herons, is really a very distinct genus, differing from all the others in the length of its middle toe and claw, which is equal to the tarsus in length; the claw of the hind toe is also very long, only slightly curved, and nearly equal to the hallux itself. Two species are known, *Phoyx purpurea* (L.) and *P. manillensis* (Meyen).

The slaty-black Heron of Africa, *Ardea calceolata,* Du Bus, seems to belong to a genus distinct from *Herodias,* and certainly from *Demiegretta,* with which it has been placed by some writers. The bill is not so long as the middle toe and claw, and it therefore belongs to the shorter-billed group, containing *Florida* and *Herodias.* The name proposed for it is

MELANOPHOYX, gen. nov.

Similar to *Florida,* but with elongated plumes on the crest and breast; the ornamental plumes on the back not reaching beyond the tail.

Dr. Sharpe also proposed the name of

MESOPHOYX, gen. nov.,

for the bird generally called *Herodias intermedia,* which was intermediate between the genera *Ardea* and *Herodias.* From the former it differed in having no ornamental nape-plumes, and in the possession of an enormous pectoral and dorsal patch of ornamental plumes, the dorsal train reaching far beyond the tail. From *Herodias* it is distinguished by its serrated bill and the difference in style of the ornamental breeding-plumes.

The genus *Garzetta* differs from *Herodias* in its longer and slenderer bill, which exceeds the length of the middle toe and claw, the last-named genus being closely allied to *Ardea*. The American Egret differs from *Garzetta* in its enormous crest of decomposed plumes, which covers the whole crown and nape; it also lacks the elongated nape-plumes of *Garzetta*, while the breast-feathers are decomposed and not lanceolate. The name suggested is

LEUCOPHOYX, gen. nov. Type, *L. candidissima* (Gm.).

Another curious Heron, which cannot be referred to any known genus, is the *Ardea rufiventris* of Sundevall, from South Africa. It belongs to the group of *Butorides* and *Ardeola*. From the former genus it differs in having a rounded wing, with the secondaries equal to the primaries, and the scapulars so much produced as to overhang the quills. From *Ardeola* it differs in having no ornamental nape-plumes, but a very dense neck-frill; it also wants the dorsal train. The name proposed is

ERYTHOCNUS, gen. nov. Type, *E. rufiventris* (Sund.).

The next Meeting of the Club will take place on Wednesday, May 16th, 1894.

(Signed)

HENRY SEEBOHM,	R. BOWDLER SHARPE,	HOWARD SAUNDERS,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XVIII.

The seventeenth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 16th of May, 1894.

Chairman : P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present :—E. Bidwell, W. T. Blanford, F.R.S., W. Chamberlain, E. Hartert, A. P. Loyd, E. W. Oates, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, F. Penrose, R. H. Read, Hon. W. Rothschild, Howard Saunders, H. Seebohm, R. Bowdler Sharpe, G. E. Shelley, W. B. Tegetmeier, A. Trevor-Battye, H. M. Upcher, C. J. Wilson.

Visitors : Capt. B. L. Sclater, R.A., G. L. Sclater, R.N., Dr. A. Donaldson Smith (Philadelphia).

Mr. E. W. Oates exhibited some skins of birds recently procured by him in the Shan States, amongst which was an apparently new species of *Ixulus*, which he proposed to call

Ixulus clarki, sp. n.

Similis *I. humili*, Hume, sed dorso cinereo nec brunneo, pileo saturatè umbrino, nec ut in *I. humili* dorso concolori, maculâ argentescente ad latera colli positâ, distinguendus. Long. tot. 5 poll., alæ 2·45.

This species was named after Mr. C. C. S. Clark, who had

[*May 26th*, 1894.]

greatly assisted Mr. Oates in his ornithological work on Mount Byingyi.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited specimens of the extinct *Chætoptila angustipluma* from Hawaii, *Loxops wolstenholmei* from Oahu, and also the adult male, female, and young male of *Drepanornis bruijnii*.

Mr. W. T. Blanford, F.R.S., made some remarks on the Owls of the Indian Region, with special reference to the following species :—*Strix de roepstorffi* (not to be separated from *S. flammea*), *Carine pulchra* (to be united to *C. brama*), *Glaucidium radiatum* and *G. malabaricum* (not specifically distinct), *Ninox lugubris, N. burmanica,* and *N. scutulata* (to be united) ; *Scops modestus* (=*S. balli*), *S. lempiji, S. malabaricus, S. griseus* (=*S. bakhamæna*), and *S. lettia* all belong to one species ; *S. pennata* (=*S. giu*) and *S. sunia* must also be united ; and *S. nicobaricus*=*S. sunia*. The genus *Huhua* must be kept distinct from *Bubo*.

Captain Shelley exhibited some specimens of African birds, amongst which were some new species, which he described as follows :—

1. Pæoptera kenricki, sp. n.

Brunnescenti-nigra, vix metallica, æneo paullulum adumbrata. Long. tot. 7·5 poll., alæ 4.

Hab. Usambara Mts. Type in Shelley collection.

2. Artamia comorensis.

Similis *A. bicolori*, sed major : suprà concolor : saturatè cyanea, vix lilacino lavata. Long. tot. 6·5 poll., alæ 3·75.

Hab. Great Comoro Island (*Kirk*). Type in Shelley collection.

Captain Shelley further proposed the name of *Enneoctonus reichenovi*, an emended title for *Lanius affinis*, Reichenow, J. f. O. 1884, p. 261 (nec Legge, Str. F. 1876, p. 243).

He also made some remarks on *Malaconotus poliocephalus*, of which he recognized three races, which had been mixed up by Dr. Gadow in the 'Catalogue of Birds.' These were, according to Captain Shelley, *M. poliocephalus* (Licht.), from Western and North-eastern Africa, *M. blanchoti* (Steph.), from Zanzibar to Algoa Bay, and *M. approximans* (Cab.), from the Pangani River to Shoa. The species called by Dr. Gadow *Laniarius hypopyrrhus* was not really Hartlaub's species of that name, and Capt. Shelley proposed the name of *Malaconotus gabonensis* for it (=*L. hypopyrrhus*, Gadow, nec Hartl.).

While speaking of the African Shrikes he pointed out that *Telephonus anchietæ*, Bocage, and *T. minutus*, Hartl., were not true members of the genus *Telephonus*, as the sexes differ remarkably, the female being distinguished by a broad white eyebrow, whereas in *Telephonus* both male and female are alike. The bill is also shorter and stouter than in the last-named genus, and he therefore proposed to separate the two species above mentioned under a new generic heading—

BOCAGIA, gen. nov.

Types, *B. minuta* (Hartl.) and *B. anchietæ* (Bocage).

Professor BARBOZA DU BOCAGE sent for exhibition the skin of an apparently new species of *Bradyornis*, which he had received from Galanga in Angola. He proposed to call it

BRADYORNIS SHARPII, sp. n.

Similis *B. boehmi*, Reichenow, sed rostro nigro, mandibulâ haud flavidâ, et pileo chocolatino concolori, nec griseo: fasciâ cervicali grisescenti nullâ. Long. tot. 5·6 poll., alæ 3·2.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE laid upon the table the first two livraisons of Fatio and Studer's 'Catalogue des Oiseaux de la Suisse,' and pointed out the useful work that could be done by any English ornithologist who devoted himself to working out the ranges of British Birds in the same manner as had been done by these Swiss naturalists. The maps showing the distribution of each species in Switzerland formed a distinct feature, which, Dr. Sharpe believed, could be introduced with advantage in a general work on the geographical distribution of British Birds.

The next Meeting of the Club (and the last of the Session) will take place on Wednesday, June 20th, 1894, when the Secretary and Treasurer will make a financial statement and will also submit to the Members a Draft of the amended Rules and Bye-laws.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*
R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*
Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XIX.

The eighteenth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 20th of June, 1894.

Chairman : P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present :—A. H. Evans, A. H. Everett, W. R. Ogilvie Grant, E. Hargitt, E. Hartert, L. H. Irby, A. P. Loyd, J. G. Millais, R. H. Read, Hon. W. Rothschild, Howard Saunders, R. Bowdler Sharpe, G. E. Shelley, Johnson Wilkinson, C. A. Wright, John Young.

Visitor : Mr. Nesham.

The Secretary and Treasurer presented a Draft of the amended Rules, and these were adopted *nem. con.* He then stated that the Club contained 102 Members who had paid their subscriptions, and that there was a substantial working balance in the treasury.

Mr. Sclater exhibited skins of three rare Parrots (*Ara auricollis*, *Pionus lacerus*, and *Chrysotis tucumana*), obtained by Herr Paul Neumann in Tucuman and Jujuy, Argentina (see Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. ii. p. 66). These species had not been included in Sclater and Hudson's 'Argentine Ornithology.' The specimens were duplicates of the Berlin Museum, and had been kindly sent to Mr. Sclater in exchange.

[*June 30th*, 1894.]

Mr. Sclater also exhibited two eggs of *Phibalura flavirostris* (Fam. *Cotingidæ*), hitherto quite unknown, obtained in the vicinity of Rio Janeiro, and sent to him by Dr. E. A. Goeldi, with a paper describing the nesting of this bird, which would be published in the October number of 'The Ibis.'

A letter was read from Professor O. Taschenberg, of Halle-a/S., pointing out that the conclusions of Dr. Wickmann, with regard to the origin of the coloration of bird's eggs (*cf.* Bull. no. xv. p. xxvi), had already been insisted upon by him in the 'Zoologischer Anzeiger' for 1885 (vol. viii. p. 243).

The Hon. Walter Rothschild exhibited co-types of *Eos histrio talautensis, Zeocephus talautensis, Hermotimia talautensis, Pitta inspeculata, Oriolus melanisticus,* all described by Messrs. A. B. Meyer and L. W. Wiglesworth from the Talaut Islands, Kabruang, and Salibabu.

Mr. Rothschild also exhibited some rare Japanese birds, among them a pair of *Parus owstoni,* Ijima, from Miyakeshima, Seven Islands, Izu, south of Japan. The species is described in 'Dōbutsugaku Zasshi,' no. 62, December 1893. *Parus owstoni* somewhat resembles *P. varius,* Temm. & Schleg., but differs obviously in its much bigger bill and feet, and its larger size altogether, by the deep rufous sides of the head and forehead, the mark on the occiput, and the colour of the back. It is not a strictly typical form of the genus *Parus.*

Mr. Rothschild laid on the table a typical specimen of *Aithurus polytmus* (Linn.), from Jamaica, and two others which had a large ruby-coloured spot on the throat. These latter were collected by Mr. C. B. Taylor in one locality in the district of St. Andrew, to the north of Kingston, Jamaica, where he frequently met with this ruby-throated form. Mr. Rothschild considered the ruby spot to be a sufficient character for the recognition of a distinct local race, which he named *Aithurus taylori*, after its discoverer.

Mr. Rothschild also exhibited a specimen of *Diomedea immutabilis*, described by him from Laysan Island. It was shot by Mr. Owston's collector on Miyakeshima, October 30th, 1893.

Dr. Julius von Madarász communicated the description of two apparently new species of birds from the Finisterre Mountains in Eastern New Guinea, collected by Mr. Samuel Fenichel for the Hungarian National Museum. Dr. von Madarász proposed to call these new species

Pœcilodryas hermani, sp. n.

P. similis *P. hypoleucæ*, sed intensè nigra, minimè vero schistacea vel brunnescenti-nigra, supercilio albo lato, et speculo alari albo multo majore distinguenda. Long. tot. 5 poll., alæ 3·1.

Hab. in montibus Novæ Guineæ 'Finisterre' dictis.

Donacicola sharpii, sp. n.

D. similis *D. castaneithoraci*, sed supracaudalibus et rectricibus centralibus intensè castaneis, et pileo clarè margaritaceo cano distinguenda. Long. tot. 4 poll., alæ 2·05.

Hab. in montibus 'Finisterre' dictis.

Mr. Howard Saunders made some observations on an interesting stage of plumage of *Larus melanocephalus*, an immature specimen of which had been procured in Hungary, and had been submitted to him for identification by the Hungarian National Museum.

Mr. J. G. Millais exhibited specimens of the Grey-necked Bustard (*Trachelotis barrovii*), obtained by him during his recent travels in South-eastern Africa, and drew special attention to the rosy tinge which the white under surface of the bird frequently exhibited.

Extracts of letters received from Mr. W. Eagle Clarke were read by Mr. H. Saunders. Mr. Clarke had systematically worked the Camargue—the wild marshy district about the mouths of the Rhone—and found some 115 species of birds there. He observed flocks of 500–600 Flamingoes on the *étang* of Valcarès, which covers an area of about 30 square miles, though not more than 2 feet deep, and watched their way of feeding on a small crustacean (*Artemia salina*) ¼ inch in length and existing in myriads. The Flamingoes were not nesting, and perhaps would not do so this year, as the season had been exceptionally dry. The Red-crested Pochard (*Fuligula rufina*) was a tolerably common breeding species, nesting under dense masses of purslane, and in the same cover two pairs of Pintail (*Dafila acuta*) were undoubtedly breeding: a very considerable extension southward of the known breeding-range of this Duck.

Mr. E. HARTERT made some remarks on the ornithological treasures in the Museum of Kiel, which he had recently visited. Besides the Boie and Behn collections, there were several other birds of great interest to be seen there, including a *Nestor productus* and a fine *Alca impennis*.

The EDITOR announced that the titlepage and index to Vol. III. of the 'Bulletin' would be distributed shortly, along with Mr. Degen's paper on "Some of the Main Features in the Evolution of the Bird's Wing," which would appear as Vol. II. of the 'Bulletin' of the British Ornithologists' Club.

The next Meeting of the Club will take place on Wednesday, October 24th, 1894.

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.*
R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.*
HOWARD SAUNDERS, *Sec. & Treas.*

Postscript.

[The following descriptions of new species of Philippine birds have been sent to me by Mr. Ogilvie Grant, who has received a collection from the mountains of Northern Luzon from his friend Mr. John Whitehead, which unfortunately arrived too late for exhibition at the last Meeting of the Club. A full account of the collection will appear in 'The Ibis.'—R. B. S., *June* 23, 1894.]

Mr. Ogilvie Grant describes the following species as new:—

CHIMARRHORNIS BICOLOR, sp. n.

Cyanescenti-schistaceus; abdomine, uropygio, supracaudalibus et caudâ saturatè castaneis. Long. tot. 6·3 poll., alæ 3.

ORIOLUS ALBILORIS, sp. n.

Similis, ut videtur, *O. samarensi*, Steere, sed loris conspicuè albis, corpore subtùs toto lætè flavo, hypochondriis vix nigricante striolatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 7·7 poll., alæ 4·3.

LANIUS VALIDIROSTRIS, sp. n.

L. tephronoto, Vig., valdè affinis, sed notæo toto schistaceo, uropygio et supracaudalibus minimè rufis, et rostro validiore distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·2 poll., alæ 3·4.

HYLOTERPE ALBIVENTRIS, sp. n.

Similis *H. philippinensi*, Wald., sed obscurior; pectore grisescente et abdomine albo distinguenda. Long. tot. 6 poll., alæ 3·3.

DENDROPHILA MESOLEUCA, sp. n.

Similis *D. œnochlamydi*, Sharpe, sed plagâ longitudinali dorsali albescente facilè distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·7 poll., alæ 3.

ÆTHOPYGA FLAVIPECTUS, sp. n.

Similis *Æ. bellæ*, Tweedd., sed subtùs lætè flavo, pectore minimè scarlatino notato distinguenda. Long. tot. 3·7 poll., alæ 1·7.

Eudrepanis jefferyi, sp. n.

Similis *E. pulcherrimæ*, Sharpe, sed secundariis extùs latè metallicè viridibus tectricibus concoloribus distinguenda. Long. tot. 3·6 poll., alæ 1·9.

Cinnyris obscurior, sp. n.

Similis *C. jugulari* (L.), sed minor, suprà grisescente tincta, vix olivascens, rostro breviore et crassiore distinguenda. Long. tot. 4 poll., alæ 2.

Cinnyris whiteheadi, sp. n.

Similis *C. speratæ* (L.), sed pileo nuchâque metallicè aureo-viridibus, dorso alisque nigerrimis; uropygio et supracaudalibus metallicè viridibus distinguenda. Long. tot. 4 poll., alæ 2·1.

Dicæum luzoniense, sp. n.

Simile *D. ignipectori*, Hodgs., sed gutture et pectore scarlatinis. Long. tot. 3·5 poll., alæ 2·1.

Dicæum obscurum, sp. n.

Simile *D. concolori*, Jerd., sed major et rostro fortiore, notæo saturatè olivaceo, corpore subtùs magis cinerascente, loris minimè albis. Long. tot. 3·6 poll., alæ 2·2.

Zosterornis, gen. n. (Fam. *Timeliidæ*.)

Genus affine generi "*Cyanoderma*" dicto, sed orbitis minimè nudis, annulo vero albo, more *Zosteropum*, cinctis, distinguendum. Typus est

Zosterornis whiteheadi, sp. n.

Suprà olivacea; pileo cinereo; supercilio, faciei lateribus et gulâ summâ cinnamomeo-rufis; subtùs omninò flava. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., alæ 2·8.

Stoparola nigrimentalis, sp. n.

Similis *S. sordidæ*, Wald., sed colore magis argentescenti-schistaceo; fronte et loris, supercilio, mento, et gulâ summâ nigris distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·2 poll., alæ 3·1.

Chlorura brunneiventris, sp. n.

C. similis *C. borneensi*, Sharpe, sed abdomine quoque rufescente, pectore concolore; pectoris lateribus cæruleo lavatis; fronte cæruleâ lætiore et minùs extensâ. Long. tot. 4·2 poll., alæ 2·3.

LOXIA LUZONIENSIS, sp. n.

♂. Similis *L. curvirostræ* ♂, sed magis rosacea. ♀. Similis *L. curvirostræ* ♀, sed magis grisescens, pectore et uropygio vix flavicante tinctis. Long. tot. 5·6 poll., alæ 3·3.

SCOPS LONGICORNIS, sp. n.

Similis *S. pennato*, sed tarso imo nudo, et cornibus plumosis longissimis 1·5 distinguenda. Long. tot. 8 poll., alæ 5·6.

Mr. Henry Seebohm describes a new Blackbird as

MERULA THOMASSONI, sp. n.

M. similis *M. papuensi*, sed multo minor (ala 4·75 poll., cauda 3·75) et saturatior, dorso, alis, caudâque nigris, minimè brunneis; pileo undique, gutture et præpectore totis nigro-fumosis.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

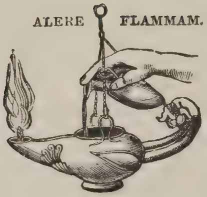
R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D.

VOLUME IV.

SESSION 1894-5.

LONDON:
R. H. PORTER, 18 PRINCES STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE.

JULY 1895.


ALERE FLAMMAM.

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PREFACE.

THE communications to the Meetings of the B. O. Club during the past Session have not been wanting in interest or variety, and several important papers have been read.

The attendance of Members at the Monthly Meetings has grown, and the number of Members of the B. O. Union who have joined the Club has also increased, so that at the last Meeting the Treasurer was able to congratulate the Club on its list as well as on the state of its finances.

(Signed) R. BOWDLER SHARPE,
Editor.

June 29*th*, 1895.

RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(*As amended 20th June*, 1894.)

I. This Club was founded for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Any Member of that Union can become a Member of this Club on payment (to the Treasurer) of an entrance fee of *Five Shillings* and a subscription of *Five Shillings* for the current Session. Resignation of the Union involves resignation of the Club.

II. Members who have not paid their subscriptions before the last Meeting of the Session shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be Members of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears *and* a new entrance fee.

III. No Member of the B. O. U. can attend the Meetings of the Club as a Visitor, unless his usual residence is outside the United Kingdom. Every Member of the Club introducing a visitor shall pay *One Shilling* to the Treasurer.

IV. The Club shall meet, as a rule, on the Third Wednesday in every Month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects shall be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

V. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the B. O. C. shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member *who has paid his subscription.* Copies of this Bulletin shall be published and sold at *One Shilling* each.

VI. The affairs of this Club shall be managed by a Committee to consist of the Editor of 'The Ibis,' the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' and the Secretary and Treasurer, *ex officio*, with three other Members, one of whom shall be changed every year. The Committee shall have power to make and alter the Bye-laws.

COMMITTEE 1894–95.

P. L. Sclater, F.R.S., *Editor of the 'Ibis.'*
R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor of the 'Bulletin.'*
Howard Saunders, *Secretary and Treasurer.*
Philip Crowley.
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CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

ON OPENING THE THIRD SESSION

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB, 1894.

My remarks on opening the Third Session of the B. O. C. have been unavoidably postponed until the present Meeting; but I now propose to address to you a few words on some of the recent events in Ornithology.

Section I. New Discoveries.

More than forty years ago, as I well recollect, my former friend and master in Ornithology, Hugh Strickland, used to complain how hard it was to find a bird really new to Science. Strickland was little aware of the enormous number of new species and new forms, some of them of the most extraordinary character, which have been constantly discovered and described year by year since that period. At the present epoch it must be allowed that, in the two great Northern Regions of the earth's surface, there remains little more to be done in the way of discovery of new species. But in the Oriental, Australian, Ethiopian, and Neotropical Regions, as fast as new localities are visited, new forms of avian life still continue to present themselves. For example, Mr. Whitehead's researches in the highlands of the Philippines, and Mr. Everett's labours in the Natuna Islands alike show that the ornithological riches of the Oriental Region are by no means exhausted. In Australia proper, perhaps, little more in the way of novelty is to be expected, but in the Papuan Subregion the already rich Ornis is still receiving most remarkable additions as new areas are explored. Within the past few months two new forms of

Paradise-birds, both referable to new genera*, besides many other very interesting new species, have come to light; and I am told by Mr. De Vis that Sir William MacGregor has discovered a third new Paradise-bird.

As regards Africa, I need only call attention to the collections made under the directions of Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., by Mr. Alexander Whyte in Nyasa-land, and described in 'The Ibis' by Capt. Shelley. Our German fellow-workers are also constantly engaged in characterizing new species from both the Eastern and the Western German territories in Tropical Africa. Passing across the Atlantic to South America we might well suppose that the stream of novelties which has flowed from the Neotropical Region abundantly for so many years, was now likely to stop. But the collection recently received by Mr. Salvin from Mr. Baron shows that even in Peru, which has been so fully explored by the collectors of Warsaw, this is not the case. Mr. Salvin tells me that Mr. Baron's recent collection (of which he will shortly write in 'Novitates Zoologicæ') contains examples of no fewer than 14 new species. Mr. Garlepp's collections from Bolivia, which are submitted to the experienced scrutiny of Graf von Berlepsch, also often comprise examples of new and remarkable species. There is likewise still much to be done in Tucuman and in the adjoining northern provinces of Argentina, whence Herr Paul Neumann has lately sent a most interesting series of specimens to the Berlin Museum (*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. iii. p. xlv). It is plain, therefore, that we may still look forward for many years to the great pleasure of discovering, describing, and figuring new species in 'The Ibis' and in our 'Bulletin.'

Section II. ORNITHOLOGICAL WORKS IN PROGRESS AND PROMISED.

As regards Ornithological books, there has seldom, if ever, I think, been a time when so many new ones have been in progress and in preparation. For England alone, besides Lord Lilford's 'Coloured Figures of British Birds,' we have Dr. Sharpe's 'Handbook' in the 'Naturalist's Library,' and Wyatt's 'British Birds'; and Mr. Dresser has now announced the speedy appearance of his long promised Supplement to the 'Birds of Europe.' Two important works, which, however, are making somewhat slower progress — Menzbier's 'Ornithologie du Turkestan' and Pleske's 'Ornithographia Rossica' — are likewise being issued in Russia. To illustrate the Ornis, until recently so little known, of the Hawaiian archipelago, we have two splendidly illustrated works both approaching completion; I need hardly say I refer to Messrs. Wilson and Evans's 'Aves Hawaiienses,' and to Mr. Rothschild's 'Avifauna of Laysan;' both of them productions creditable alike to British science and to British art.

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* *Loria*, Salvad. (Ibis, 1894, p. 564), and *Lamprothorax*, Meyer, Abhandl. k. zool. Mus. Dresd. iv. no. 2.

In Monographs the list is perhaps not quite so long as usual, but Dr. Sharpe's 'Paradise-birds,' Mr. Elliot's 'Pittas,' and Mr. Butler's 'Foreign Finches' are alike in process of issue, while Messrs. Sharpe and Wyatt have just brought to a completion their 'Monograph of the Hirundinidæ' and our friend Heer F. E. Blaauw is working hard at an illustrated volume on the Cranes.

I must also not omit to hope for a speedy completion of Messrs. Newton and Gadow's 'Dictionary of Birds,' which, as we must all be aware, when brought to a conclusion, will be of material assistance to the working ornithologist.

Section III. The Great 'Catalogue of Birds.'

Since the opening of our last Session the 22nd volume of the 'British Museum Catalogue of Birds,' containing the Game Birds, by Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, and the 23rd volume, containing the Rails, Cranes, and Bustards, by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, have been published. From the last Parliamentary Report of the British Museum we learn that vol. xxiv. of this important work will contain the Waders, by Dr. Sharpe; vol. xxv. the Gulls and Petrels, by Mr. H. Saunders and Mr. O. Salvin; vol. xxvi. the Divers, Pelicans, Cormorants, and Herons, by Dr. Sharpe; and vol. xxvii. the Geese, Ducks, and the remainder of the Class of Birds, by Count T. Salvadori. Thus, as these naturalists are all, I believe, busily engaged on the compilation of their respective tasks, we may look forward to the completion of this arduous undertaking within a definite period—say, two or three years from the present time.

The point I wish now to impress upon my brother ornithologists is the great importance and advantage of an index volume to close the series. It has been suggested, I am told, that an index of the genera would be sufficient. An index of genera would be, no doubt, most useful—in fact, I have had such an index of the volumes already issued prepared for my own use; and very handy indeed do I find it. But to this should certainly be added a second index to all the specific names referred to in the twenty-seven volumes of the work. Such an addition would no doubt be somewhat bulky, as I find that the average number of pages taken up with the index of each volume is about 22, which multiplied by 27 would make a volume of nearly 600 pages for the final Index:—

Average number of pages of Index in the 23 published volumes of B.M. Cat. Birds	22
Total number of pages of Index in the whole 27 volumes	594

But there can be no doubt that such an index would be of surpassing value to the working ornithologist; and as it might be easily compiled from the indexes already published, the labour of making it would not be serious. Still more complete and still more useful would such an index be, if, after the final volume of the Catalogue, an additional volume were prepared in which all the names of species described since 1874 (when the Catalogue was commenced), and not already recorded in the different volumes, were enrolled, with references to each of them. If this additional volume were also indexed in the 'General Index' the result would be a work of reference to the class of Birds much more complete and of far greater general usefulness than the late G. R. Gray's celebrated 'Hand-list of Birds,' issued some twenty-four years ago, and still used by a large number of ornithologists for purposes of reference.

Section IV. FUTURE EXPLORATIONS SUGGESTED.

In concluding my remarks, I will venture to offer some few words of advice to the Members of the B. O. C., or other ornithologists, who may be seeking for places to which to make future excursions.

Although there is not much left that is new in the Palæarctic Region, there is one not far distant part of it of which we as yet know little ornithologically. I allude to the interior of Asiatic Turkey, particularly the Upper Euphrates, where birds are stated by several recent travellers to be abundant. The route to the Persian Gulf, and so up to Bagdad by steamer, is now easy, and the start should be from that quarter in the early spring, when the climate is good. The Euphrates might then be followed to its sources, or so far to the north as convenient, the return home being made by the Mediterranean. An insight would thus be obtained to the ornithology of Mesopotamia, of which as yet nothing, I may say, is known. Many interesting links, no doubt, would be found there between the birds of Persia and those of Syria and Palestine.

An ornithologist who wished to spend his winter in the West Indies could not do better than visit the Island of Margarita, off the coast of Venezuela, which, as a recent traveller informs us, is a healthy place, easy of access, and well provided with birds. It is very desirable to know whether this island, like Curaçao and its satellites (*cf.* Hartert, Ibis, 1893, p. 289), possesses any traces of West-Indian forms or is purely Venezuelan in character. In either case it would be well worth a collector's visit.

A more adventurous explorer, who did not fear Africa, might be counselled to visit the Upper Senegal River and the elevated land between that and the Upper Niger, over which the *pax Gallica* is now said to prevail. This country is of easy access by steamer and railway from St. Louis du Sénégal. Of the birds of Senegal we know nothing since the days of Swainson, excepting the collections made for the Maison Verreaux, and a few scattered details; for Dr. Rochebrune's work ('Faune de la Sénégambie') is universally admitted to be utterly untrustworthy.

P. L. S.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XX.

The nineteenth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 24th of October, 1894.

Chairman: HENRY SEEBOHM.

Members present:—W. E. DE WINTON, E. HARGITT, A. P. LOYD, F. MENTEITH OGILVIE, W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, DIGBY PIGOTT, C.B., Count SALVADORI, HENRY SEEBOHM, R. BOWDLER SHARPE, G. E. SHELLEY, W. B. TEGETMEIER, H. T. WHARTON, JOHNSON WILKINSON, C. A. WRIGHT.

Visitors: C. E. FAGAN, C. B. RICKETT.

The CHAIRMAN announced that, owing to domestic bereavement, Dr. Sclater was unable to attend the Meeting, and that his Annual Address to the B.O.C. would be postponed to the next Meeting, in November.

Count SALVADORI made some remarks on the Ducks of the genera *Anas* and *Nyroca*, the following being apparently new to science:—

ANAS OUSTALETI, sp. n.

Similis *A. superciliosæ*, sed speculo alari cæruleo-purpureo paullum viridi nitente, tæniâ albâ ante-speculari distinguenda.

Hab. in insulis Mariannis. Typus in Museo Parisiensi.

[*October* 31*st*, 1894.]

Nyroca innotata, sp. n.

Similis *N. leucophthalmæ,* sed capitis, colli, pectorisque colore castaneo valdè saturatiore: torque collari fusco nullo, et maculâ mentali albâ deficiente, distinguenda.

Hab. in insulâ Madagascar dictâ. Typus in Museo Britannico.

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited a series of specimens of the birds collected by Mr. John Whitehead in the mountains of Northern Luzon. Two species appeared to be undescribed:—

Oriolus isabellæ, sp. n.

♀. Similis *O. albilori,* sed major, loris mentoque flavis, et rostro brunnescenti-nigro distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·8 poll., alæ 4·4, caudæ 3·6 (in *O. albilori* 2·9).

Zosterornis striatus, sp. n.

Similis *Z. whiteheadi,* sed gastræo toto nigro distincte striolato, sicut in genere '*Mixornis*' dicto, distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., alæ 2·4, caudæ 2·05.

Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe exhibited the type of *Micropus nehrkorni,* W. Blasius (J. f. O. 1890, p. 147), which had been sent by Herr Nehrkorn to Dr. Sclater for identification (*cf.* Ibis, 1894, p. 569). Dr. Sharpe had omitted this species from the list of species of *Micropus* given by him in 'The Ibis' for 1894, p. 422, and was much obliged to Herr Nehrkorn for sending the specimen to England.

On examination *Micropus nehrkorni* proved to be not a Bulbul, but a representative species in Mindanao of *Melaniparus semilarvatus,* Salvad., of Luzon. It must therefore be known as *Melaniparus nehrkorni* (W. Blasius). The resemblance to *Micropus melanoleucus* was very striking, but the longer bill, more prominent rictal bristles, ovate nostril, and feebler feet distinguish the *Micropus,* while the rounded nostril, covered with feathers, and the powerful feet identified *Melaniparus* as a member of the family Paridæ, though aberrant in its general appearance. *M. nehrkorni* differed from *M. semilarvatus* in its narrower white frontal band, white speculum at the base of the primaries, and white under wing-coverts and axillaries.

Mr. Seebohm exhibited specimens of *Merula thomassoni* from the mountains of Northern Luzon (*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. iii. p. li), and pointed out the close affinity of the species to *M. papuensis,* De Vis, from the mountains of S.E. New Guinea.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe made some remarks on the species of Birds of Paradise of the genus *Diphyllodes,* of which he recognized the following :—

1. *D. magnifica* (Penn.). N.W. New Guinea (Sorong; Salawati).
2. *D. seleucides,* Less. N.W. New Guinea (Arfak Mts.).
3. *D. chrysoptera,* Gould (*D. jobiensis,* Meyer).
4. *D. septentrionalis,* Meyer. Finisterre Mts.
5. *D. hunsteini,* Meyer. Astrolabe Mts.

The Arfak bird, of which he had recently seen upwards of one hundred examples, was an intermediate form between the pale ochre-winged *D. magnifica* and the golden-winged *D. chrysoptera.* *D. septentrionalis* was barely separable from *D. hunsteini,* but had the deep crimson mantle-patch of *D. chrysoptera,* while the birds from S.E. New Guinea had the mantle-patch of a lighter crimson. *D. hunsteini,* Meyer, with a richer golden-orange tint on the wings, was believed by Dr. Sharpe to be merely a very old and brightly coloured plumage of the ordinary Golden-winged Bird of Paradise from the mountain-ranges of S.E. New Guinea. The large series of skins of *D. seleucides* from the Arfak Mountains showed the increasing richness in coloration of these golden-winged species of *Diphyllodes,* in proportion to their age.

Dr. Sharpe also pointed out that the species of Plover of the genus *Defilippia* from Nyasa Land and the Zambesi region was distinct from *Defilippia crassirostris* of Equatorial Africa. He separated it as

DEFILIPPIA BURROWSII, sp. n.

Similis *D. crassirostri*, sed secundariis purè albis, et capitis nigredine magis extenso, facilè distinguenda.

Hab. in terrâ Nyasensi.

Dr. SHARPE also made some remarks on the Grebes of the genus *Tachybaptes*, and pointed out that four distinct species had been confounded under the heading of *T. minor*. Of these the African bird had received the "nomen nudum" of *Podiceps capensis* from Bonaparte, which Dr. Sharpe proposed to adopt.

TACHYBAPTES CAPENSIS, sp. n.

Similis *T. minori*, sed abdomine sericeo-albo, minimè nigro, et colli lateralis colore castaneo usque ad oculum posticum extenso facilè distinguendus.

Hab. in regione Ethiopicâ totâ.

TACHYBAPTES ALBIPENNIS, sp. n.

Similis *T. minori*, sed colli lateralis colore castaneo usque ad oculum posticum extenso, secundariis purè albis, rhachidibusque earum quoque albis, distinguendus.

Hab. in subregione Indicâ peninsulari.

Mr. TEGETMEIER exhibited a curious grey variety of the Common Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) and some feathers of an Ostrich (sp. inc.), at present living in the Zoological Society's Gardens.

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, the 21st of November.

(Signed)

H. SEEBOHM, *Chairman.*
R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.*
HOWARD SAUNDERS, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XXI.

THE twentieth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of November, 1894.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. BIDWELL, F. E. BLAAUW, P. CROWLEY, W. E. DE WINTON, Major A. P. LOYD, Dr. ST. G. MIVART, F.R.S., E. NEALE, F. MENTEITH OGILVIE, W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, E. C. PEARSON, J. J. PEARSON, T. DIGBY PIGOTT, C.B., HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), W. L. SCLATER, HENRY SEEBOHM, R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), W. B. TEGETMEIER, AUBYN TREVOR-BATTYE, H. T. WHARTON, JOHNSON WILKINSON, C. A. WRIGHT.

Visitors: E. A. S. ELLIOT, C. E. FAGAN, H. H. JOHNSTON, C.B., R. I. POCOCK, C. B. RICKETT.

On the motion of Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE, it was unanimously Resolved:

> "That the best thanks of the B. O. C. be offered to Mr. J. P. GASSIOT, F.Z.S., for his handsome contribution of £25 towards the expenses of the production of Vol. II. of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and that a complete copy of the three volumes of the 'Bulletin' be presented to him."

The Chairman read his Annual Address to the Club.

[*November 30th*, 1894.]

Mr. Sclater exhibited eggs of two species of Macaw, *Ara militaris* and *A. ararauna,* which had been laid in the aviaries of Mr. H. H. Sharland, F.Z.S., at La Fontaine, Tours, the former in June 1890 and the latter in July 1894. They were pure white and of the usual glossy texture of other eggs of the Psittacidæ.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a skin of Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus wilsoni*), belonging to a collection of skins which had been recently received from the Falkland Islands by the University College Museum, Dundee, and had been kindly submitted to him for examination by Prof. d'Arcy Thompson. This was the first record of the occurrence of this bird in the Falkland Islands, although it had been met with by Durnford in 1876 as far south as the Chupat Valley in Patagonia (Scl. & Huds. Arg. Orn. ii. p. 281), and was also known to occur in Chili.

Mr. J. J. Pearson exhibited an egg-blowing apparatus, with which he had obtained the best results during his recent visit to Iceland.

Dr. A. B. Meyer, of Dresden, sent the following descriptions of a new Parrot and a new Bird of Paradise, which he intended to describe in detail and to figure elsewhere:—

Microglossus salvadori, sp. n.

Fœm.? Formâ *M. aterrimi* (Gm.), sed primulaceo-flavus: subtùs angustè, suprà latè nigro fasciatus: alis et caudâ reliquâ plus minusve nigro irroratis: capite cristâque viridi-atris, irregulariter fasciatim pallidissimè flavo signatis et maculatis: maxilla fusca, apice pallido, mandibulâ albescenti: pedibus nigris. Long. tot. c. 550 millim., al. 370, caud. 275, crist. 130, rostr. culm. c. 75, max. alt. 40, mand. alt. 36, max. lat. ad bas. 26, mand. lat. ad bas. 36, tars. 20.

Hab. Nova Guinea, in montibus Arfak.

Parotia carolæ, sp. n.

Mas. Similis *P. sexpenni* (Bodd.), sed multo minor et ab eâ præterea facilè distinguenda pileo regioneque periophthalmicâ nitidè saturatè ochraceo-aureis, laterum plumis elongatis, albis, internis castaneis vel nigris, et gulæ plumis piliformibus nitidè ochraceis, etc. Long. tot. c. 270 millim., al. 150, caud. 75, capitis rhachid. vexill. 110 (in *P. sexpenni* 170), rostr. culm. 19, tars. 46.

Hab. Nova Guinea, in montibus ad flumen Amberno.

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM exhibited skins of two new species of birds from the interior of Formosa, collected by Mr. Holst. The first was a Tit of the subgenus *Machlolophus,* which he proposed to call

PARUS HOLSTI, sp. n.

Pileo cristato tergoque viridescenti-nigris: macula nuchali alba: gastræo toto lætissimè flavo.

RALLINA FORMOSANA, sp. n.

Similis, ut videtur, *R. sepiario,* Stegn., sed multò minor: pileo dorso concolori (an juv.?), *R. euryzonoidi* juv. similis, sed valdè saturatior.

A full description of these species will appear in 'The Ibis.'

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE stated that he had since discovered that the Plover described by him as *Defilippia burrowsii* (above, p. iv) was the *Vanellus leucopterus* of Reichenow (J. f. O. 1889, p. 265), and the species must therefore be known as *Defilippia leucoptera* (Reichen.).

Mr. A. TREVOR-BATTYE, who had landed in England on the previous evening, received a warm welcome from his brother members. He gave an interesting account of his explorations in the Island of Kolguev and his subsequent journey to the Petchora and Archangel.

The next Meeting will take place on Wednesday, the 19th of December, when Mr. Trevor-Battye will give an account of the ornithology of Kolguev Island.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*	R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*	Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XXII.

THE twenty-first meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 19th of December, 1894.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present:—G. BARRETT-HAMILTON, E. BIDWELL, J. L. BONHOTE, W. E. DE WINTON, A. H. EVANS, JOHN GERRARD, W. GRAHAM, G. H. CATON HAIGH, E. HARTERT, J. E. HARTING, W. H. HUDSON, E. G. B. MEADE-WALDO, F. MENTEITH OGILVIE, C. E. PEARSON, H. J. PEARSON, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), A. B. R. TREVOR-BATTYE, C. A. WRIGHT, JOHN YOUNG.

Visitors: GRAHAM KERR, D. F. MACKENZIE, ARNOLD PIKE, T. M. PIKE, HUGH L. POPHAM, H. STEVENS, Capt. CAYLEY WEBSTER.

Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited a specimen of a bird new to the Fauna of Great Britain. This was an example of the Sub-alpine Warbler (*Sylvia subalpina*), which had been forwarded to him for exhibition by Mr. J. S. Elliott, of Dudley, who had shot it himself on the island of St. Kilda on the 13th of June, 1894, after a heavy gale from the south-west.

Mr. J. E. HARTING exhibited a specimen of the Yellow-

[*December 29th*, 1894.]

browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus superciliosus*), shot near Beverley by Mr. Swailes of that place.

Mr. W. E. De Winton exhibited a pair of Kestrels which he had shot last summer in the act of capturing young Pheasants. He regarded this as an isolated instance, as, after the shooting of the pair in question, no more young birds were taken, although Kestrels were numerous in the neighbourhood.

Mr. A. Trevor-Battye made some remarks on the natural history of Kolguev Island.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild communicated the following description of a new genus and species of bird from New Zealand, which he proposed to call

"Traversia, gen. nov. Xenicidarum.

"Differs in several important points both from *Xenicus* and *Acanthidositta*. Bill much larger and stouter, very little shorter, if at all, than the tarsus; the latter about as long as middle toe without claw, or the hind toe and claw, while in *Xenicus* and *Acanthidositta* it is about twice as long as the hind toe. The principal difference, however, is the weak character of the wing, which points to flightlessness, as does also the very soft and loose character of the entire plumage, and the very Ralline aspect of the bird. There are only 10 tail-feathers, and the scutellation of the tarsus is like that of *Xenicus*. These two points determine its position in the *Xenicidæ* at once (*cf.* Sclater, Cat. B. xiv. p. 450). The type is

"Traversia lyalli, sp. nov.

"*Male*. Above dark brownish olive-yellow, each feather with a brownish-black border. A narrow distinct yellow superciliary line. Wings and tail umber-brown, the inner webs darker; wing-coverts like back. Chin, throat, and breast chrome-yellow, each feather slightly edged with greyish brown. Flanks, abdomen, and vent pale brown, centre of feathers paler.

"*Female.* Upper surface umber-brown, each feather bordered with very dark brown; wings and tail similar. Under surface buffy grey, the feathers edged with pale brown.

"Total length about 4 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 1·8 to 1·9, tail 0·8, but much concealed; tarsus 0·75, middle toe 0·65, hind toe without claw 0·5.

"*Habitat.* Stephens Island, New Zealand. Discovered by Mr. D. Lyall, lighthouse-keeper, and sent to me by Mr. Henry H. Travers."

Mr. ROTHSCHILD also sent for exhibition one of the two typical specimens of *Craspedophora mantoui*, Oust. He wished to call attention to the fact that it agrees in the minutest details with Mr. J. Büttikofer's recently described *C. bruyni*, and that there could be no doubt of the two species being identical. *C. mantoui* was admirably figured by Keulemans in the 'Nouvelles Archives du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle,' Paris (vol. iv. pl. 15).

Dr. A. B. MEYER sent a diagnosis, accompanied by a coloured sketch, of a remarkable new genus and species of Bird of Paradise, which would be described later on by him in detail and figured elsewhere:—

PTERIDOPHORA, gen. nov. Paradiseidarum.
(πτερίς=filix, φέρειν=ferre.)

Capite utrinque scapo paradoxo, valde elongato, filicis flabelli uniseriati instar transformato, lobis plurimis, corio similibus, munito. Rostro turdino, recto, angusto: alis brevibus, remige primo dimidiam partem secundi superante, tertio, quarto, quinto, sexto longioribus, quarto longissimo: cauda mediocri, æquali: pedibus mediocribus. Statura minore quam in genere *Lophorhina.*

PTERIDOPHORA ALBERTI, sp. n.

Mas. Supra velutino-nigra, plus minusve olivaceo-nitens, plumis sincipitis elongatis, utrinque productis: capite lateribus supra oculos scapo, corpore fere duplo longiore, lobis 37–38 ornato, supra colore floris myosotidis, subtus fuscescentibus, singulis in margine postico tenuiter nigro-ciliatis: uropygio nigro-cinereo: alis caudaque nigris, remigibus rectricibusque basin versus pallide ferrugineis: gula velutino-nigro guttulata: subtus ochraceo-flava: rostro nigro: pedibus fuscis. Long. tot. c. 220 millim., al. 123, caud. 90, rostri culm. 22, tarsi 30, capitis scapi 350, lobi max. long. 9, lat. 7.

Hab. Nova Guinea, in montibus ad flumen 'Amberno.'

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe made some remarks upon this extraordinary species, which constituted the fourth new form of Paradise-bird described within the last month; the three others being *Parotia carolæ* of Meyer (Bull. B. O. C. *anteà*, p. vi), *Craspedophora bruijni*, sp. n., and *Ianthothorax benzbachi,* gen. et sp. n., described by Dr. Büttikofer (Notes Leyden Mus., Dec. 1894).

Dr. Sharpe gave the following list of the genera and species of the *Paradiseidæ* and *Ptilonorhynchidæ* known up to the present day:—

1. *Ptilorhis paradisea,* Swains. S. & C. Australia.
2. —— *victoriæ,* Gould. N.E. Australia.
3. *Craspedophora magnifica* (V.). N.W. New Guinea.
4. —— *intercedens,* Sharpe. S.E. New Guinea.
5. —— *mantoui,* Oust. (*C. bruijni,* Büttik.). N.W. New Guinea.
6. *Ianthothorax benzbachi,* Büttik. N.W. Guinea.
7. *Paryphephorus duivenbodii* (Meyer). N.W. New Guinea.
8. *Seleucides nigricans* (Shaw). New Guinea.
9. *Drepanornis albertisi,* Scl. N.W. New Guinea.
10. —— *cervinicauda,* Scl. S.E. New Guinea.
11. —— *geisleri,* Meyer. E. New Guinea.
12. *Drepananax bruijni* (Oust.). N. New Guinea.
13. *Epimachus speciosus* (Bodd.). N.W. New Guinea.
14. —— *ellioti,* Ward. Hab. ign.
15. —— *meyeri,* Finsch. S.E. New Guinea.
16. *Astrapia nigra* (Gm.). N.W. New Guinea.
17. *Astrarchia stephaniæ,* Finsch. S.E. New Guinea.
18. *Paradigalla carunculata,* Less. N.W. New Guinea.

19. *Trichoparadisea gulielmi* (Cab.). E. New Guinea.
20. *Paradisornis rudolphi,* Finsch & Meyer. S.E. New Guinea.
21. *Paradisea apoda,* L. Aru Islands.
22. —— *novæ-guineæ,* D'Albert. & Salvad. S. New Guinea.
23. —— *finschi,* Meyer. E. New Guinea.
24. —— *augustæ-victoriæ,* Cab. E. New Guinea.
25. —— *mariæ,* Reichen. E. New Guinea.
26. —— *minor,* Shaw. N.W. New Guinea, Mysol.
27. —— *raggiana,* Scl. S.E. New Guinea.
28. —— *decora,* Salv. & Godm. D'Entrecasteaux Isl.
29. *Uranornis rubra* (Lacép.). Waigiou, Batanta.
30. *Cicinnurus regius* (L.). New Guinea, Aru Isl.
31. *Rhipidornis gulielmi-tertii* (Musschenbr.). N.W. New Guinea.
32. *Diphyllodes seleucides,* Less. N.W. New Guinea.
33. —— *magnifica* (Penn.). N.W. New Guinea.
34. —— *chrysoptera,* Gould. Jobi Isl.
35. —— *hunsteini,* Meyer (*D. septentrionalis,* Meyer). S.E. New Guinea.
36. *Schlegelia respublica* (Bp.). Waigiou, Batanta.
37. *Parotia sexpennis* (Bodd.). N.W. New Guinea.
38. —— *lawesi,* Ramsay. S.E. New Guinea.
39. —— *carolæ,* Meyer. N.W. New Guinea.
40. *Semioptera wallacii* (Gray). Batchian.
41. —— *halmaheræ,* Salvad. Halmahéra.
42. *Lophorhina superba* (Penn.). N.W. New Guinea.
43. —— *minor,* Ramsay. S.E. New Guinea.
44. *Lamprothorax wilhelminæ,* Meyer. N.W. New Guinea.
45. *Phonygama keraudreni* (Less. & Garn.). N.W. & S.E. New Guinea, Aru Isl.
46. —— *gouldi* (Gray). N.E. Australia.
47. —— *hunsteini,* Sharpe (*P. thomsoni,* Tristr.). Normanby Isl., Goodenough Isl.
48. —— *purpureo-violacea,* Meyer. S.E. New Guinea.
49. *Manucodia chalybeata* (Penn.). New Guinea, Mysol.
50. —— *jobiensis,* Salvad. Jobi Isl.
51. —— *rubiensis,* Meyer. N.W. New Guinea.

52. *Manucodia atra* (Less.). New Guinea, Mysol, Waigiou, Batanta.
53. *Eucorax comrii* (Scl.). D'Entrecasteaux Isl.
54. *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus* (Forst.). Halmahéra.
55. —— *obiensis*, Bernst. Obi Isl.
56. —— *morotensis*, Bernst. Morotai Isl.
57. *Xanthomelus aureus* (L.). N.W. New Guinea.
58. —— *ardens*, D'Albert. & Salvad. S. New Guinea.
59. *Prionodura newtoniana*, De Vis. Queensland.
60. *Cnemophilus macgregorii*, De Vis. S.E. New Guinea.
61. —— *mariæ*, De Vis. S.E. New Guinea.
62. *Loria loriæ*, Salvad. S.E. New Guinea.
63. *Amblyornis inornata* (Schl.). N.W. New Guinea.
64. *Xanthochlamys subalaris* (Sharpe). S.E. New Guinea.
65. —— *musgravianus* (Goodw.). S.E. New Guinea.
66. *Sericulus melinus* (Lath.). E. Australia.
67. *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* (V.). E. Australia.
68. *Scænopœetes dentirostris* (Ramsay). Queensland.
69. *Ælurœdus melanotis* (Gray). Aru Isl.
70. —— *arfakianus*, Meyer. N.W. New Guinea.
71. —— *melanocephalus*, Ramsay. S.E. New Guinea.
72. —— *maculosus*, Ramsay. Queensland.
73. —— *buccoides* (Temm.). New Guinea, Waigiou, Batanta.
74. —— *stonii*, Sharpe. S.E. New Guinea.
75. —— *geislerorum*, Meyer. E. New Guinea.
76. —— *viridis* (Lath.). Australia.
77. *Chlamydodera maculata* (Gould). E. & S. Australia.
78. —— *occipitalis*, Gould.
79. —— *guttata*, Gould. Int. Australia.
80. —— *nuchalis* (J. & S.). N. Australia.
81. —— *orientalis*, Gould. Queensland.
82. —— *cerviniventris*. N.E. Australia, S.E. New Guinea.

Two new genera were proposed in the above list of *Paradiseidæ*, and one in the *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, for which the following characters were given :—

DREPANANAX, gen. n.

Genus simile '*Drepanornis*' dicto, sed chlamyde laterali præpectorali diversâ et fasciis pectoralibus absentibus distinguendum.

Typus: *D. bruijni* (Oust.).

EUCORAX, gen. n.

Genus simile generi '*Manucodia*' dicto, sed pilei plumis lateralibus recurvatis et rectricibus medianis recurvati distinguendum.

Typus: *E. comrii* (Sclater).

XANTHOCHLAMYS, gen. n.

Genus simile generi '*Amblyornis*' dicto, sed cristâ maximâ ornatâ distinguendum.

Typus: *X. subalaris* (Sharpe).

Mr. OSBERT SALVIN, F.R.S., sent some photographs of a specimen of an Albatros in the Peterhead Museum, which had been forwarded to him by Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown. Mr. Salvin identified the species as *Diomedea culminata*.

The CHAIRMAN exhibited a skin of *Falco punicus*, which had been captured at sea in the Mediterranean, south of Crete, in June last, by Mr. Arthur Sclater, on his passage home from Ceylon, and brought alive to England.

Mr. SCLATER called attention to the recently published work on the birds of the Balkan States, Bulgaria, Eastern Roumelia, and the Dobrudscha ('Materialen zu einer Ornis Balkanica'), by Othmar Reiser, Custos of the Landes-Museum in Sarajevo, which contained a mass of information on the ornithology of one of the least-known portions of Europe, and would be of special interest to students of the Palæarctic Ornis. Mr. Sclater had just received a letter from the author, who stated that he had found the Snow-Finch (*Montifringilla nivalis*) nesting on some of the highest mountains in Greece (Riona, 2500 metres, and the Korax).

The next Meeting will take place on Wednesday, the 16th of January, 1895.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*	R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*	Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XXIII.

The twenty-second meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 16th of January, 1895.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, W. E. De Winton, E. Hargitt, St. George Mivart, F.R.S., E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, F. Menteith Ogilvie, C. E. Pearson, J. H. Pearson, F. Penrose, T. Digby Pigott, C.B., Howard Saunders (*Treasurer*), R. Bowdler Sharpe (*Editor*), H. Seebohm, H. H. Slater, W. B. Tegetmeier, C. A. Wright.

Visitors: Col. Adamson, J. B. Bilderdeck, C. Poole, C. B. Rickett, F. C. Selous.

Dr. A. B. Meyer sent the following description of the hitherto unknown male of *Amblyornis inornata* (Schl.), from Karoon, west of the Arfak Mountains:—

"*Mas.* Supra colore brunneo saturatiore quam femina subterque ferrugineo tinctus, subalaribus ferrugineis: alis caudaque subter suspectu quodam flavo-olivaceis: scapis flavescentibus: capitis crista sincipiti tantummodo inserta, transversa, flabelliformi, longissima, 80 millim.: colore quo *Amblyornis subalaris*, Sharpe, sed plumis lateralibus marginibus brunneis nec nigris. Long. al. 134 millim., rostri culm. 25, caud. 98.

"Dr. Sharpe recently established (*vide anteà* p. xv) the genus *Xanthochlamys* for the two known crested species of

[*January 29th*, 1895.]

Amblyornis, assuming that the male of *A. inornata* (Schl.) was without a crest, as, indeed, has been generally believed to be the case, though Dr. Sharpe himself once rightly doubted this fact. The specimen before me, having just reached the Dresden Museum, leaves no doubt that it really is the male of *A. inornata,* of which it has happened that only young males or adult ones not in nuptial dress and females have been known since the year 1871, when it was first described, a fate which it shared to a certain degree with *Drepananax bruijni* (Oust.). The genus *Xanthochlamys,* therefore, must again give way to *Amblyornis.*"

Dr. Sharpe regretted that he had instituted a new generic term for the Crested Gardener-Birds of South-eastern New Guinea, but pleaded that the number of specimens of *Amblyornis inornata* which had been received by European Museums during the last twenty-three years—none of which had shown the least trace of a crest—had warranted him in believing that his genus *Xanthochlamys* was well founded.

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant communicated a description of two new species of birds from the Philippine Islands, which he proposed to characterize as follows:—

CALLÆOPS, gen. n.

Genus simile generi '*Arses*' dicto, carunculam ophthalmicam exhibens, sed cristâ longâ lanceolatâ, caudâ cuneatâ et pedibus debilibus distinguendum.

Typus est

CALLÆOPS PERIOPHTHALMICA, sp. n.

Omnino nigra: pectore mediano abdomineque albis: subcaudalibus et axillaribus albo marginatis. Long. tot. 8·5 poll., alæ 3·5, caudæ 4·5, tarsi 0·6.

Hab. in insulâ Philippinensi 'Luzon' dictâ.

CINNYRIS EXCELLENS, sp. n.

Similis *C. guimarascensi,* Steere, sed fronte tantum chalybeo-viridi, vertice nuchâque olivaceis, dorso aurantiaco, hypochondriis olivaceo-griseis: plagâ pectorali medianâ scarlatinâ distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·0 poll., alæ 1·9, caudæ 1·2, tarsi 0·55.

Hab. in parte meridionali insulæ Philippinensis 'Luzon' dictæ.

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM called attention to the existence of two races of the Ground-Thrush, which had hitherto been united under the name of *Geocichla sibirica*. The two forms were easily distinguishable, and should be called *Geocichla sibirica* (Pall.) and *G. davisoni* (Hume).

Mr. W. B. TEGETMEIER exhibited the skin of a *Phasianus torquatus* from Samoa.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE made some remarks on Canon Tristram's paper "On the Use and Abuse of Generic Terms" ('Ibis,' 1895, pp. 130–133). A discussion followed, in which Dr. P. L. Sclater, Dr. St. George Mivart, Mr. Howard Saunders, Mr. Henry Seebohm, and Mr. H. J. Pearson took part.

Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS proposed for the smaller Noddy Terns the new generic term of

MICRANOUS, gen. n.

Genus simile generi '*Anous*' dicto, sed rostro longiore et tenuiore, et rectrice tertiâ essternâ utrinque longissimâ distinguendum.

Typus est *Micranous tenuirostris* (Temm.).

Mr. SCLATER exhibited a pair of skins of Darwin's Tinamou (*Nothura darwini*) from Patagonia (*cf.* Arg. Orn. ii. p. 213, pl. xx.), recently received from Prof. Dr. Carlos Berg, Director of the National Museum of Buenos Ayres, and pointed out the discrepancy of the size of the sexes in this as in other Tinamous, the male being considerably smaller than the female.

The Editor desired to apologize to Mr. Osbert Salvin, F.R.S., for a regrettable *lapsus calami* which occurred in the last number of the 'Bulletin.' The name of the Albatros mentioned by him (*anteà*, p. xv) should have been *Diomedea melanophrys* and not *D. culminata*!

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, the 20th of February, 1895.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater, *Chairman.*
R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*
Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XXIV.

The twenty-third meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 20th of February, 1895.

Chairman : St. George Mivart, F.R.S.

Members present :—E. Bidwell, W. E. De Winton, W. Graham, Edward Hargitt, Ernst Hartert, W. Ogilvie-Grant, T. Parkin, C. E. Pearson, J. H. Pearson, Howard Saunders (*Treasurer*), R. Bowdler Sharpe (*Editor*), Johnson Wilkinson, John Young.

Visitors : J. H. Bidwell, C. B. Rickett, F. C. Selous, H. Stevens.

Dr. A. B. Meyer sent for exhibition plates of the remarkable Birds of Paradise, *Pteridophora alberti* and *Parotia carolæ*, recently described by him.

The Hon. Walter Rothschild sent for exhibition the second specimen known of *Pteridophora alberti*, in order that the members of the Club might have an opportunity of examining this singular bird.

Mr. Rothschild likewise sent a fine collection of Birds of Paradise of different genera :—including an adult male of *Astrarchia stephaniæ* ; a perfect skin of *Rhipidornis guilielmi-tertii* ; the three species of *Parotia*, viz. *P. sexpennis*, *P.*

[*March 2nd*, 1895.]

lawesi, and *P. carolæ*; a specimen of *Amblyornis inornata* with a yellow crest; and a fine series of *Drepanornis bruijni*, showing every stage of plumage of the male, from his first dress—when he resembles the female—up to the complete and decorated plumage of the adult.

Mr. Hartert, who exhibited these specimens on behalf of Mr. Rothschild, made some remarks on the series.

A special vote of thanks to Mr. Rothschild was passed.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited a nest containing six eggs, believed to be those of the Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), which had been taken by Dr. John A. Norton in Somersetshire on the 15th May, 1894, and lent for exhibition. The eggs were of a very peculiar type, the ground-colour being pure white; towards the larger end especially, they were spotted and blotched with reddish, and there were also present some underlying clouds of pale lilac. The eggs were, in fact, very similar to some of the clutches in the National Collection laid by the Nuthatch (*Sitta cæsia*), but Dr. Norton, who *saw the old bird*, felt perfectly certain that if it was not a Blackcap, which he believed it to be, it could only be a Garden-Warbler (*Sylvia hortensis*).

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant also exhibited the male and female of a new species of *Zosterops* collected by Mr. J. Whitehead in South Luzon.

Zosterops luzonica, sp. n.

Most nearly allied to *Z. nigrorum*, from Negros, but distinguished by having no black spot in front of the eye, the upper parts brighter olive, and the yellow on the throat and middle of the underparts more golden with no greenish tinge. Total length 3·8 inches, wing 1·8, tail 1·4, tarsus 0·6.

The name of the new genus of Flycatchers described in the last number of the 'Bulletin,' p. xviii, should stand as *Callaeops*, not *Callæops* as printed there.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant then exhibited the skulls of two Wood-Partridges, *Arboricola javanica* and *Tropicoperdix charltoni*, pointing out the extremely peculiar supra-orbital chain of bones characteristic of the former species and other members of the genus, but entirely absent in the latter, as well as in the allied form *T. chloropus*. Mr. W. T. Blanford had called his attention to a MS. note of a specimen of *T. chloropus* in the British Museum, from which it was clear that this latter peculiarity had long ago been observed by Mr. J. Wood-Mason, who first pointed out the supra-orbital chain of bones in *Arboricola*; but the statement respecting the absence of this chain of bones in *Tropicoperdix* was never published, and was quite lost sight of.

Under these circumstances it was thought necessary to separate *T. charltoni* and *T. chloropus* from the genus *Arboricola* (in which they had generally been included), and to place them in the genus *Tropicoperdix*, already proposed by Blyth; the differences in the skull being supplemented by certain external characters, such as the different style of plumage and the peculiar *snow-white* downy patches situated on each side of the body under the wing.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe remarked that in the 'Sarawak Gazette' of last January, Mr. E. Bartlett, the Curator of the Museum at Sarawak, had recorded the occurrence, for the first time in Borneo, of the Shoveler Duck (*Spatula clypeata*) and of the Sand-Martin (*Cotile riparia*). Dr. Sharpe stated that he should have expected the latter bird to have been the Chinese species, *Cotile sinensis*.

Mr. W. E. De Winton exhibited some interesting specimens of Willow-Grouse and Ptarmigan, selected from a large collection of these birds sent from St. Petersburg.

Mr. T. Parkin exhibited a skin of a very rare species of Petrel, identified by Mr. Osbert Salvin as *Œstrelata incerta* of Schlegel. Mr. Parkin shot the bird during a calm, on his recent voyage to the South Atlantic, in lat. 39° 51′ S., long. 8° 49′ E.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, the 20th of March, at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, W.

(Signed)

St. G. Mivart, *Chairman.*	R. Bowdler Sharpe, *Editor.*	Howard Saunders, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XXV.

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 20th of March, 1895.

Chairman: Howard Saunders.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, J. L. Bonhote, W. E. De Winton, Ernst Hartert, W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, H. J. Pearson, Frank Penrose, R. Bowdler Sharpe (*Editor*), G. E. Shelley, C. A. Wright.

Visitors: C. E. Fagan, Frederick Gillett, C. B. Rickett.

The Chairman read extracts of letters received from Mr. P. L. Sclater, relative to birds observed on his excursion up the Nile. It was remarked that the Egyptian Kite carried its legs straight out under the base of the tail.

Mr. Howard Saunders made some remarks upon the Skimmers (*Rhynchopinæ*), with special reference to the species found in America. After studying the specimens in the collection of the Natural History Museum, he found three forms which he considered to be specifically distinct. Of these, *Rhynchops nigra* has a nearly white tail, a broad pure white alar band, conspicuously white parapteral feathers, and white under wing-coverts; it inhabits the temperate and tropical east coast of North America. *R. melanura* has

[*March* 30*th*, 1895.]

dark brown rectrices, with very narrow pale borders to the outer webs, a slight alar band of dull white, shows no white on the parapteral feathers, and has smoke-coloured under wing-coverts; it inhabits the great rivers of South America which drain from the Andes (ascending to the cataracts), and also the Pacific coasts of Chile, Peru, and Ecuador. On the coast of South Brazil and Argentina, ascending the Paraná and Paraguay to their head-waters, is found a species which chiefly resembles the northern *R. nigra*, but differs from it in having a smaller alar band, and the rectrices chiefly brown, with broad white edges to the outer webs. This he proposed to call

RHYNCHOPS INTERCEDENS, sp. n.

♂. Similis *R. nigræ*, sed fascia alari alba angustiore, et rectricibus præcipuè brunneis, latè albo marginatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 18 poll., alæ 15·25.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for inspection a new species of Bower-bird, which he characterized as follows:—

ÆLURŒDUS JOBIENSIS, sp. nov.

This species is nearest to *Æ. melanocephalus*, Ramsay, from British New Guinea, but shows sufficient differences to justify its separation. The head is black, uniformly spotted with buffish yellow, and does not show the black band on the sides of the occiput, so conspicuous in *Æ. melanocephalus*. Upper neck and back brownish buff, with black margins. Ear-coverts consisting of the large patch of bristly feathers found in its three nearest allies, but this patch passes straight into the black of the throat, without any marked area of pale feathers surrounding it, as in *Æ. melanotis*, *Æ. melanocephalus*, and *Æ. arfakianus*. The pale spots on the tips of the wing-coverts not very distinct, and of a dusky buff colour. Throat, breast, and uppermost part of abdomen black, with a small central buff spot in each feather, while in *Æ. melanotis* (from the Aru Islands) and *Æ. melanocephalus* these feathers are buff or whitish, with narrow black borders. The breast is much greener in *Æ. arfakianus* from Mt. Arfak. Lower abdomen and under tail-coverts buff with dusky margins, shaded here and there with green. In all other respects most similar to *Æ. melanocephalus*, but the feathers on the sides of the neck just behind the ear-coverts are almost uniform buff, having nearly lost their dark margins. Culmen 1·5 inch, wing 6·5, tail 5·4, tarsus 1·65.

Hab. Island of Jobi, New Guinea, where it was procured by the hunters of the late Mr. Bruijn. Type in Rothschild Museum.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited skins of some rare Francolins collected at Nassa, on the south-eastern shore of the Victoria Nyanza. One of these was *Pternistes rufopictus*, Reichen., a remarkably handsome species, belonging to the bare-throated group of Francolins. A second species was new to science, and he proposed to call it

Francolinus hubbardi, sp. n.

♂. Similis *F. coqui*, Smith, sed gastræo toto concolore, pallidè fulvo, minimè nigro transfasciato.

♀. Præpectore ferè griseo, minimè rufescente distinguenda. Long. tot. 10 poll., alæ 5·6, caudæ 2·6, tarsi 1·6.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant also described a new species of *Rhizothera* in the British Museum, as

Rhizothera dulitensis, sp. n.

♂. Similis *R. longirostri*, sed præpectore et pectore totis griseis, gastræo reliquo albicante: pedibus schistaceis. Long. tot. 13 poll., alæ 7·7, caudæ 3, tarsi 2·25.

♀ *ad.* Similis *R. longirostri* ♀, sed tectricibus alarum ferè saturatè brunneis, maculis fulvescentibus paucioribus distinguenda.

Hab. Mt. Dulit, Sarawak, 4000 feet (*C. Hose*).

The describer pointed out that the true *R. longirostris* is also found in Borneo, as examples have been obtained by Mr. Alfred Everett at Marup and Busan in Sarawak. These specimens are identical with others from the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra, and it is evident that *R. dulitensis* is a mountain-form of *R. longirostris*.

Capt. G. E. Shelley called attention to the fact that *Crithagra rendalli* of Tristram, recently described in the 'Ibis,' was, in all probability, the same as *C. crassirostris* of Peters, described from Mozambique. Peters published only a short and somewhat vague description of the latter species; but, while agreeing with Dr. Bowdler Sharpe that *C. mosambica*, described by Peters at the same time, was referable to *C. ictera*, Capt. Shelley thought it hardly likely that he would have described the latter species twice over in the same paper. A comparison of the types was desirable, and the attention of Dr. Reichenow was called to this suggestion.

Mr. W. E. De Winton exhibited some very large specimens of the Common Guillemot (*Uria troile*) which had been obtained off the Yorkshire coast during the recent severe weather, and Mr. Ogilvie-Grant also drew attention to a singularly large individual procured near Cromarty, N.B.

Mr. H. J. Pearson brought for exhibition some clutches of the eggs of the Harlequin Duck (*Cosmonetta*) and Long-tailed Duck (*Harelda glacialis*), and the Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus hyperboreus*), procured by him during the past summer in Iceland. The eggs of the Ducks were beautifully arranged on the down; a method of exhibition much admired by the Members present.

Mr. F. Gillett made some remarks on his recent travels through Somali-land to the Galla country, when he accompanied Dr. Donaldson Smith's expedition.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe announced that the first collections from Dr. Donaldson Smith's expedition had just arrived in this country, and that several of the species of birds appeared to be new to science. Among them were the following:—

COSSYPHA DONALDSONI, sp. n.

C. similis *C. subrufescenti*, Bocage, sed saturatior schistaceus, et rectricibus externis concoloribus, haud schistaceo marginatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·8 poll., alæ 3·1.

Dryodromas smithi, sp. n.

D. similis *D. rufifronti* (Rüpp.), sed rectricum externorum pogonio externo omnino albo distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·8 poll., alæ 1·8.

Cisticola dodsoni, sp. n.

C. similis *C. subruficapillæ*, sed pileo castaneo concolore, et aspectu externo remigum minimè rufescente distinguenda. Long. tot. 3·4 poll., alæ 1·7.

Mirafra gilletti, sp. n.

M. similis *M. næviæ* et *M. sabotæ*, sed uropygio et supracaudalibus schistaceo-griseis, et rectricibus angustè arenario fimbriatis facilè distinguenda. Long. tot. 6 poll., alæ 3·4.

Caprimulgus donaldsoni, sp. n.

C. similis *C. fervido*, Sharpe, sed minor, torque cervicali et præpectorali latè castaneis, maculis magnis ochraceo-fulvis conspicuè marmorato distinguendus. Long. tot. 7·8 poll., alæ 5·2.

The next Meeting will take place on Wednesday, the 17th of April, 1895.

(Signed)

Howard Saunders,
Chairman.

R. Bowdler Sharpe,
Editor.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XXVI.

The twenty-fifth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 17th of April, 1895.

Chairman: P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. Bidwell, H. J. Pearson, F. Penrose, Howard Saunders (*Treasurer*), W. L. Sclater, R. Bowdler Sharpe (*Editor*), W. B. Tegetmeier, Major Horace Terry, Aubyn Trevor-Battye, John Young.

Visitors: J. W. Castle, H. Stevens, Prof. Traquair, W. F. Urwick.

Mr. Sclater gave a short account of the tour he had recently made up the Nile from Cairo to Wadi Halfeh and back. Travelling by the post-steamer, he had been unable to make collections, but with the aid of field-glasses had identified examples of about 50 species of birds. In February above the First Cataract many birds were already breeding, although the ordinary migrants from the south had not yet arrived. Young Hoopoes and Wheatears fully fledged were offered for sale by the natives. A nest and two eggs of the Pale Crag-Swallow (*Cotile obsoleta*) had been taken from a ledge in the smaller temple at Abou Simbel. The necessity for a new edition of Shelley's 'Birds of Egypt' was insisted on.

[*April 30th*, 1895.]

Mr. Bidwell exhibited, by permission of Mr. H. Stevens, a handsome specimen of the egg of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*), from the collection of Sir F. Milner. The specimen was especially remarkable for the "pitted" nature of the shell.

Mr. Stevens showed a large photograph of the Great Auk, taken from a specimen in Sir F. Milner's collection, which had been remounted by Mr. Cullingford of Durham, and which was considered to be one of the finest known specimens of the bird.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe brought some specimens of birds from the collection recently made by Dr. Donaldson Smith, during his expedition from Somali-land to Lake Rudolf. In addition to those species described at the last Meeting of the Club, Dr. Sharpe exhibited examples of the following new species:—

Turacus donaldsoni, sp. n.

T. pileo antico viridi, postice pallidè coccineo, et maculâ magnâ anteoculari albâ distinguendus. Long. tot. 16·5 poll., alæ 7·2.

Hab. Meo.

Lophoceros sibbensis, sp. n.

L. similis *L. deckeni*, tectricibus alarum nigris, minimè albo maculatis, sed statura minore et rostro toto nigro distinguendus. Long. tot. 15 poll., alæ 6·3.

Hab. Sibbe.

Mr. A. Trevor-Battye exhibited a curious white variety of a Brent Goose, which he had procured at Kolguev Island, and gave an account of the mode of capture of these Geese by the Samoyedes.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe referred to the loss which the Club had recently sustained, by the death of its esteemed member, Mr. Edward Hargitt, and gave an account of his life and work, with especial reference to the series of paintings of Woodpeckers which Mr. Hargitt had executed for his proposed 'Monograph of the *Picidæ.*' These paintings were 1300 in number, and had taken twelve years in execution. They comprised portraits of every type submitted to him, and of every variation in plumage which existed in his own collection of Woodpeckers, and in those of other public and private Museums to which the deceased artist had had access.

On the motion of the Chairman, a letter of condolence with Miss Hargitt, who had been for many years his faithful coadjutor in this preparation for his 'Monograph,' was passed by the Meeting.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Club should be held on Wednesday, the 22nd of May (*not* the 15th), at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, W.

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.*	R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.*	HOWARD SAUNDERS, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XXVII.

THE twenty-sixth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 22nd of May, 1895.

Chairman : P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present :—E. BIDWELL, W. E. DE WINTON, J. GERRARD, Col. H. W. FEILDEN, Major A. P. LOYD, R. NESHAM, W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, H. J. PEARSON, C. E. PEARSON, FRANK PENROSE, DIGBY PIGOTT, C.B., R. H. READ, Capt. SAVILE G. REID, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), HENRY SEEBOHM, R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), E. CAVENDISH TAYLOR, A. TREVOR-BATTYE, Col. YERBURY, JOHN YOUNG.

Visitors: Dr. COTMAN, J. H. FLEMING (Toronto), EDWARD HAGGARD, H. STEVENS, R. WARREN.

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT gave an account of his recent expedition to the Salvage Islands, between the Canaries and Madeira, and exhibited specimens of some of the most interesting of the species obtained by him; among these were examples of *Pelagodroma marina* and *Thalassidroma cryptoleuca*.

Col. YERBURY gave some details of his visit to Aden during the past winter, when he had been successful in identifying several species of birds which had previously been undetermined.

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM exhibited and made remarks on some specimens of *Pseudototanus guttifer* and *Eurhinorhynchus pygmæus*, recently received by him in a collection from the mouth of the Amoor River.

[*May* 31*st*, 1895.]

Mr. E. Lort Phillips sent for exhibition specimens of new species of *Merula* and *Corvus* from Somaliland. These two species had been discovered during the past winter spent by him in that country. These he proposed to call

Merula ludoviciæ, sp. n.

Similis *M. simillimæ* et *M. nigropileo* ex peninsulâ Indicâ, sed facie laterali et gutture toto nigerrimis facile distinguenda. Long. tot. 8·3 poll., culm. 0·8, alæ 4·65, caudæ 3·9, tarsi 1·2.

Corvus edithæ, sp. n.

C. similis *C. corone*, sed minor et corporis plumis ad basin dimidiatim purè albis, alis minimè viridi nitentibus sed purpurascenti-chalybeis distinguendus. Long. tot. 16·5 poll., culm. 1·95, alæ 12·4, caudæ 6·2, tarsi 2.

Mr. Bidwell exhibited an old model of a Great Auk's egg, believed to have been made in France about the year 1853, and undoubtedly one of the first models ever made. It was a copy of one of the eggs formerly in the possession of the late T. H. Potts, and purchased by the late Lord Garvagh at Stevens' Auction Rooms on May 24th, 1853, for £30.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe made some remarks on the interesting collection of birds brought by Colonel Yerbury from the neighbourhood of Aden, a full account of which will appear in 'The Ibis.' Special attention was drawn to the *Argya* and *Myrmecocichla*. The former had been alluded to by Lieut. Barnes (Ibis, 1893, p. 180) as *Argya*, sp. inc., and it was therefore interesting to find that it was the true *A. squamiceps* (Cretzschm.), though this was to have been expected. On comparing the Palestine bird usually called *A. squamiceps*, it proved to belong to a different species, and a mistake had been made in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' vol. vii. p. 395, in uniting the two. The Palestine bird must be kept distinct as *Argya chalybea* (Bp.).

Another instance of a difference between Palestine and Arabian forms was seen in the case of *Myrmecocichla melanura*. Colonel Yerbury's specimens from Aden agreed with others from Abyssinia and Somaliland; but the Palestine form, hitherto believed to be *M. melanura*, was distinct, and Dr. Sharpe proposed to call it

MYRMECOCICHLA YERBURYI, sp. n.

Similis *M. melanuræ*, sed pallidè cinerea, gutture et pectore dilutè cinereis, minimè vinaceo lavatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 6 poll., culmen 0·55, alæ 3·15, caudæ 2·35, tarsi 0·8.

Hab. in Palestinâ.

A communication from the Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD pointed out that the generic name of *Drepanorhynchus*, proposed by Dr. Dubois for a new genus of *Fringillidæ*, containing some species hitherto referred to *Spermophila* (*cf.* Mém. Soc. Zool. France, vii. 1894, p. 400), was not admissible. The generic name *Drepanorhynchus* had been already employed by Dr. Reichenow for a Sun-bird from the Kilimanjaro district in East Africa, and Mr. Rothschild therefore proposed to substitute the name *Spermophilopsis* (nom. emend.) for the *Drepanorhynchus* of Dr. Dubois. The three species belonging to *Spermophilopsis* would be *S. schistaceus* (Dubois), *S. falcirostris* (Temm.), and *S. superciliaris* (Pelz.).

Mr. ROTHSCHILD also sent the following note :—" A few weeks ago I received from Mr. Travers a couple of specimens of *Sterna vittata*, Gm., shot in February on the Bounty Islands, to the south-east of New Zealand. There can be no doubt as to the identification of the species, as Mr. Howard Saunders and Mr. Hartert have compared the birds with specimens of *S. vittata* in the British Museum, and I think that this interesting new locality for a rare Antarctic bird is worth recording."

The next Meeting (concluding the Session) will take place on Wednesday, the 19th of June, 1895.

(Signed)

P. L. SCLATER, *Chairman.*	R. BOWDLER SHARPE, *Editor.*	HOWARD SAUNDERS, *Sec. & Treas.*

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. XXVIII.

THE twenty-seventh meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 19th of June, 1895.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present:—E. BIDWELL, F. E. BLAAUW, W. E. DE WINTON, W. GRAHAM, Major A. P. LOYD, E. NEALE, R. NESHAM, W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, FRANK PENROSE, DIGBY PIGOTT, C.B., Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), E. CAVENDISH TAYLOR, Capt. HORACE TERRY, W. B. TEGETMEIER.

Visitors: Dr. DREWITT, HERBERT DRUCE, Heer RENESSE VAN DUIVENBODE, Dr. JORDAN, HENRY STEVENS.

Mr. W. B. TEGETMEIER exhibited a very curious variety of the Common Rook, with white tips to nearly every feather of the body. This specimen was one of several similarly marked young birds procured in the same Rookery during the last spring.

Mr. E. BIDWELL exhibited an egg of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*), from Iceland, from the collection of Baron d'Hamonville, and formerly in the collection of Comte Raoul de Beracé.

[*June 29th*, 1895.]

Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant exhibited skins of some new species of birds discovered by Mr. John Whitehead in the mountains of Lepanto in Northern Luzon. They were described by Mr. Grant as follows:—

Scops whiteheadi, sp. n.

Maximus. Similis *S. everetti*, sed valdè major, et digitis basaliter plumis densè vestitis. Long. tot. maris 10 poll., alæ 7·4, tarsi 1·65. Long. tot. fœm. 11·4, alæ 8, tarsi 1·9.

Rhinomyias insignis, sp. n.

Magnitudine *S. gularis*, sed supercilio guttureque purè albis, necnon pectore summo et corporis lateribus lætè ferrugineis distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·4 poll., alæ 3·5.

Lusciniola seebohmi, sp. n.

L. similis *L. mandellii*, sed primariis tertio, quarto et quinto subæqualibus et longissimis: culmine magis brunnescente: hypochondriis grisescenti-brunneis nec fulvescenti-brunneis. Long. tot. 5·8 poll., alæ 2, tarsi 0·75.

Brachypteryx poliogyna, sp. n.

B. similis *B. erythrogynæ*, Sharpe, sed saturatior: long. tot. 5·5 poll., alæ 2·6, tarsi 1·25. ♀ omnino diversa, genis guttureque toto rufescenti-fulvis, præpectore dilutiore fulvo: long. tot. 5·4, alæ 2·5, tarsi 1·2.

Pseudotharrhaleus, gen. n.

Genus generi '*Androphilo*' affine, sed rectricibus 12, nec 10, longioribus et acuminatis distinguendum.

Typus sit

Pseudotharrhaleus caudatus, sp. n.

Umbrinus: gutture albo, hujus et pectoris lateribus griseis: hypochondriis umbrinis. Long. tot. 7·5 poll., alæ 2·45, tarsi 1.

Zosterops aureiloris, sp. n.

Z. similis *Z. luzonicæ*, sed loris lætè aureo-flavis distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·5 poll., alæ 2·05, tarsi 1·5.

Pyrrhula leucogenis, sp. n.

P. pileo nigro : notæo sordidè olivascenti-brunneis : gastræo olivascenti-brunneo, pallidiore : subcaudalibus fulvis : genis posticis et regione paroticâ albis. Long. tot. 6·5 poll., alæ 3·1, tarsi 0·75.

Batrachostomus microrhynchus, sp. n.

Similis *B. septimo,* Tweedd., et *B. menagei,* B. & W., et eodem modo marmoratus, sed rostro debili et multo minore facilè distinguendus. Culm. 0·75 poll. (nec 1·05 in *B. menagei,* 1·15 in *B. septimo*), alæ 5·2, tarsi 0·7.

Prioniturus montanus, sp. n.

P. similis *P. verticali,* Sharpe, sed pileo postico nuchaque saturatè gramineo-viridibus, vix quam notæum reliquum lætioribus : genis et facie laterali cyaneis. Long. tot. 12·4 poll., alæ 6·3, tarsi 0·65.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant made some further remarks on *Oceanodroma cryptoleucura* from the Salvage Islands. [By a *lapsus calami* this species was spoken of as *Thalassidroma cryptoleuca* in the last 'Bulletin' by the Editor.]

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe described three more species represented in Dr. Donaldson Smith's collection from Somaliland :—

Serinus donaldsoni, sp. n.

Similis *S. capistrato,* sed subtùs concolor, gutture minimè maculato : hypochondriis nigro striolatis : fronte viridi, pileo concolore, angustè nigro striolato : superciliis latis flavis : notæo viridi, plumis nigro medialiter striatis : uropygio lætè flavo distinguendus. Long. tot. 6·2 poll., culm. 0·55, alæ 3·3, caudæ 2·55, tarsi 0·66.

Serinus maculicollis, sp. n.

S. hypochrondriis distinctè nigro striolatis : gulâ albidâ, torque gutturali nigro maculato insignis. Long. tot. 4·3 poll., alæ 2·6.

Crateropus smithii, sp. n.

C. similis *C. hartlaubi,* et uropygio albo, sed loris et regione

periophthalmicâ albis, plumis gutturalibus et pectoralibus cinereis, nec brunneis, squamulatim albido marginatis. Long. tot. 10·2 poll., alæ 4·15, caudæ 4·5, tarsi 1·3.

The HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD exhibited an adult male of *Paradisornis rudolphi* from the Owen Stanley Mountains, two adult males of *Amblyornis inornata* with unusually large crests, and two immature males of *Parotia carolæ*. Judging from the similarity of the young males to adult females in the two allied species, *Parotia sexpennis* and *P. lawesi*, it was evident that the same identity of plumage was found in the immature males and adult females of *P. carolæ*. The young male birds of the latter species had the back, wing-coverts, and rump olive-brown, the outer half of the primaries and secondaries chestnut-rufous, the inner half of these quills and tail being dark brown. The breast, flanks, and thighs were rufous buff, barred with black. The adult plumage had already been assumed on the head.

Mr. SCLATER exhibited three beautifully made skins of *Falco richardsoni* of North America (♂, ♂, ♀) obtained in Lorimer County, Colorado, in December 1891 and February 1892, and transmitted to Mr. Sclater by Mr. W. E. Brooks for examination. There was at present only one specimen (♂ jr.) of this rare Falcon in the British Museum.

Mr. SCLATER also exhibited a nest and two eggs of the Pale Rock-Martin, *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* (see Sharpe & Wyatt, Monogr. Hirund. vol. i. pl. xvi.), which he had taken on the 25th February last from a ledge of rock in the smaller rock-temple of Abu Simbel, Upper Egypt. The eggs appeared to be quite fresh, but one of them had been unfortunately broken on the journey home. The nest consisted almost entirely of feathers mixed with a few dry hay-straws; it was very loosely made and placed on a slight basis of dry mud.

Mr. F. E. BLAAUW gave an account of the nesting of a pair of Rufous Tinamous (*Rhynchotus rufescens*) in his garden at 'sGraveland. Five eggs were laid in a slight nest made by the male, and four young ones hatched. Incubation was undertaken entirely by the cock bird, which only left the nest to feed. The cock also took entire charge of the young brood, but it had not been found necessary to remove the hen from his company. The fact of the male's incubation had already been recorded by Mr. Bartlett (see P. Z. S. 1868, p. 114), but it was interesting to have it confirmed. In 'Argentine Ornithology' (vol. ii. p. 110) the question had been left unsettled by Messrs. Sclater and Hudson.

The next Meeting will take place on Wednesday, the 16th of October, 1895.

(Signed)

P. L. Sclater,	R. Bowdler Sharpe,	Howard Saunders,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Sec. & Treas.*

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